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New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Sevilla Borja (Ecuador), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/70/674, A/70/826 and A/70/826/Corr.1)

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): Members will recall that the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/291 at its 110th plenary meeting, held on 1 July.

We shall now continue with the remaining speakers on the list for this item.

Mr. Samvelian (Armenia): Let me begin by extending our sincere sympathies and condolences to the people and the Government of Iraq on the terror attack in the Karada district of Baghdad, as well as to the people and the Government of Bangladesh on the barbaric attack in Dhaka.

Armenia thanks the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the Permanent Representative of Iceland and their efficient and able teams for successfully facilitating the consultations on resolution 70/291. We reiterate our full commitment to supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, an important framework for international action against terrorism. However, Armenia regrets that, in the eighth preambular paragraph of the resolution, the principles of international law are reflected in a selective way, thereby failing to embrace the full letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Armenia recalls and reiterates that the self-determination of peoples constitutes a fundamental principle of the Charter of the United Nations. The failure to reflect the fundamentals of the Charter in its entirety in that paragraph is a serious flaw of the resolution.

International terrorism continues to pose a highly significant threat to global peace and security. The scourge of terrorism has become more diffuse with the increase in terrorist acts, including those motivated by intolerance and extremism. We note with profound concern that terrorism continues to seriously threaten international peace and security and believe that terrorism is one of the most dangerous challenges facing us today. Combating it is no longer a national issue, but one for the entire international community. We strongly condemn the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians; mass executions; extrajudicial killings; the persecution of individuals and entire communities on the basis of their religion or belief; the kidnapping of civilians, including for the purposes of receiving ransom; the forced displacement of members of minority groups; attacks on schools and hospitals; and the destruction of cultural and religious sites.

Armenia strongly supports the Secretary-General's call upon national authorities to make more concerted efforts to mainstream human rights and the rule of law in their counter-terrorism policies and practices. We have therefore supported and particularly welcomed recent Security Council resolutions that tackle the important

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issues of foreign terrorist fighters, countering violent extremism, the financing of terrorism and kidnapping for ransom, among others. The international community should stand united to step up our efforts to work hand-in-hand towards further strengthening the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is a key framework to address all dimensions of terrorism.

No country in the world is immune to terrorism. Those supporting extremist groups and terrorist networks by financing, training, supplying and allowing terrorists to freely roam across their borders should be reminded that foreign terrorist fighters pose a serious threat not only to the States to which they travel, but also to their States of origin and transit. Those who encourage widespread manifestations of intolerance and hate speech against another State, nation and/or persons, who consider themselves to be of a different origin, and preach hate speech through social media and education institutions should be reminded that such actions may constitute incitement to extreme violence, mass atrocities and the fuelling of terrorist ideology.

It is high time to implement those various international legal instruments dealing with terrorist crimes, including cross-boundary terrorist activities. Most of those conventions require States to establish jurisdiction over terrorist offenses committed by their nationals abroad. We would like to highlight the specific roles of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in promoting and facilitating cooperation across multiple jurisdictions. In the same spirit, Armenia also supports the Secretary-General's calls to contribute to security-sector reforms.

I would like to emphasize that Armenia has continued to take important steps in the fight against international terrorism, which includes improvements to its border security, significant changes to export-control laws and the holding of, and actively participating in, international anti-terrorism workshops and training courses. With regard to regional and international cooperation in countering terrorism, I would like to point out that Armenia has been actively engaged in the relevant initiatives of organizations such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), NATO, the European Union (EU), the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Council of Europe. Armenia was one of founding members of the Rapid Reaction Collective Forces of the CSTO, which enables rapid deployment for the purposes of preventing military aggression and conducting special operations against international terrorism and organized crime.

Through a new individual Partnership Action Plan on terrorism with NATO, my country continues to develop its cooperation on counter-terrorism issues with that organization. We continue to collaborate effectively with the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the evaluation of anti-money-laundering measures and the financing of terrorism. Armenia has been extensively engaged with EU in initiatives such as the South Caucasus Integrated Border Management project, which facilitates enhanced and integrated border-security operations.

In conclusion, Armenia reiterates its determination to work together with other Member States to redouble our collective efforts to combat international terrorism and fight violent extremism, whatever form it takes and wherever it occurs.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon): In the face of terrorism, it is our duty to stand together and united; it is our duty to send a strong and positive signal to the world.

Terrorists strike all over the world, and they strike indiscriminately and blindly. The past year — indeed, the past weeks — have been an edifying reminder of the cruelty of terrorist acts. We are all shaken by the horrifying attacks that took place recently around the world, including in my own country. Let me take this opportunity to convey my condolences to all those affected by all heinous terrorist acts.

We can never overstate enough that terrorism should not and cannot be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. It has no identity but that of barbarity and hatred. We reaffirm once again our unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We welcome the consensus adoption of resolution 70/291, the review resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that regard, I would like to pay tribute to the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the Permanent Representative of Iceland, as well as their respective teams, for their tremendous efforts in facilitating the fifth review process of the Strategy. The adoption of this consensus resolution, in particular on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Strategy, is an opportunity to reaffirm our relentless efforts to prevent and counter

terrorism, as well as our commitment to the continued implementation of the Strategy.

The review resolution reaffirms the central role of the General Assembly in combating terrorism and underscores once again the importance of an integrated, comprehensive and balanced approach to its four complementary pillars. That is critical given that terrorism is a multifaceted and global threat that cannot be addressed without strong international cooperation, as no country can eliminate it alone and as no country is immune from it. However, while no country is immune from terrorism, some countries happen to be more affected than others.

In Lebanon, which is tragically and continuously stricken by terrorism, our people are still mourning the loss of families and friends after the two consecutive attacks last week in the village of Qaa. I wish to reiterate that Lebanon, which is party to most of the counter-terrorism conventions, and consistent with its Government's 2014 policy declaration, remains on the front line of the fight against terrorism. We remain convinced that prevention is fundamental to eradicating once and for all the plague of terrorism.

In that context, we welcome the reference in the resolution to youth empowerment, as they have a significant role to play in the prevention of terrorism and the violent extremism that is conducive to it. Youth communities play a key role in my country, where a vibrant civil society offers platforms for inclusive dialogue for its youth, with full respect for their intellectual diversity.

The attention given to education is also highly important in addressing the drivers of terrorism. Education should disseminate values of openness, understanding of the other, critical thinking and dialogue, as well as the ability to foster solutions together.

Let me also highlight the positive contribution of women, as they undeniably contribute to stable and peaceful societies.

The protection of cultural heritage is another instrumental element. When terrorists pillage, destroy and burn to ashes cultural heritage preserved throughout centuries, they wipe out evidence of our common humanity and our immutable memory.

We cannot let terrorist groups exploit the growing frustrations of individuals to lure them onto this dark path. We therefore need to be aware of the crucial need to uproot the causes that lead to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to it, such as protracted conflicts, foreign occupation, poverty, marginalization, xenophobia and double standards in the application of international law. While all of these causes do not necessarily lead to terrorist radicalization of individuals, those groups use those injustices and grievances to fuel their hate speech and justify their narratives.

When dealing with counter-terrorism, we must also keep in mind that it should not be associated with other principles recognized under international law, such as the right to self-determination and to resist foreign occupation. In that regard, my delegation would like to denounce the attempts of one delegation to label as terrorism the legitimate right to resist foreign occupation. The same delegation turns a blind eye to terrorist acts committed by its citizens in territories it continues to occupy, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and rules of international law.

In conclusion, our ability to uphold human rights standards while countering terrorism — which are convergent objectives — has been severely tested during these times of turmoil. We must be up to this challenge.

Mr. Bailen (Philippines): The Philippines joins previous speakers in reaffirming its commitment against terrorism, one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. Terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of the motivation behind it and whenever and by whomever it is committed.

We condemn in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism committed anywhere in the world, most recently in Orlando, Florida; in Istanbul, Turkey; in Dhaka, Bangladesh; in Baghdad, Iraq; and in Medina, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which have killed many innocent people and injured hundreds more.

We especially condemn terrorism committed in our own country, most recently by the Abu Sayyaf group, which senselessly took the lives of Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall. We reiterate our pledge to capture the murderers and to bring them to justice. We again extend our sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

In the decade since 2006, when we adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, we have become even more undaunted and determined. Today,

we appreciate learning about one another's success stories when it comes to national implementation of the Strategy, even as we note the gaps speakers have identified so that together we can address them. That has been true for our own region, through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter Terrorism.

We thank and congratulate the delegations of Argentina and Iceland for co-facilitating the consultations on resolution 70/291, which we recently adopted. It was not an easy task. We also extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (A/70/826) on the implementation of the Strategy.

Since the fourth review, two years ago, and through international, regional and bilateral cooperation, including through the exchange of information and best practices, the Philippines has accomplished the following.

On pillar I, on addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, the Philippines has prepared a framework for countering violent extremism through the whole-of-nation approach. This engages non-traditional Government agencies, the academy and the private sector as partners in counter-radicalization and/or deradicalization by implementing community awareness campaigns and targeting programmes on hardening against terrorism, within the framework of the rule of law and human rights. Intercultural and interfaith dialogue lies at its core, because we believe that respect for human dignity is the basis for greater understanding, respect and tolerance among peoples.

As Chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) last year, the Philippines negotiated the inclusion of initiatives on countering foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism in the work plan of the APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group.

The Philippines has also harnessed the key role of women and youth in counter-terrorism. Through the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy, we have organized Muslim leaders and teachers, particularly women, into a national network and force for moderation, peace, democracy and development. Through the Philippine Marine Corps, we also sustain our annual Football for Peace competition, not only to hone the sports skills of young people from conflict areas, but also to engender a culture of peace in their outlook.

On pillar II, on preventing and combating terrorism, the Philippines has long supported global efforts to counter violent extremism, even before last year's adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), on foreign terrorist fighters. We continue to develop our capacity to win hearts and minds in order to detect and prevent homegrown violent extremism. That has raised security awareness among local communities and served in training them in monitoring and preventing terrorist attacks against vital installations and critical infrastructure, including economic key points and places of convergence.

Last November, the Philippine Congress adopted the Strategic Trade Management Act, a law that seeks to uphold national security and support counter-terrorism efforts by preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in our country. The Act complements our legal regime against terrorism and extremism, namely, our Human Security Act of 2007, as well as our Anti-Money-Laundering Law and our Anti-Terrorist Financing Law, both of which were adopted in 2012. Our Anti-Money-Laundering Council, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, has been conducting training sessions for policymakers, prosecutors and law enforcement and intelligence authorities on countering the financing of terrorism.

On pillar III, on capacity-building and strengthening the United Nations role, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centre of Excellence Initiative regional headquarters was established in Manila in 2014. The Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center is acting as the secretariat. In that regard, the Philippines adopted its national action plan and hosted, in August 2015, an ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) workshop on raising awareness and promoting ARF cooperation in CBRN risk management. Nineteen CBRN projects enjoy the cooperation of the European Union and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. At the United Nations, the Group of Friends of CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance was launched by Georgia, Morocco and the Philippines.

Finally, on pillar IV, on ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis in fighting terrorism, earlier this year the Philippines finalized its national strategy against terrorism — a product of a series of workshops involving members of the Anti-Terrorism Council and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. The strategy

is built on four work streams, namely, preventing, protecting, preparing and responding with whole-of-nation and rule-of-law-based approaches as guiding principles.

I wish to conclude as I began: by repeating that we remain undaunted, we remain determined, with all our partners, in the fight against terrorism. And with our collective will and efforts, we will overcome.

Mr. Idrizi (Albania): My delegation would first like to express its appreciation to the co-facilitators — Argentina and Iceland — and to the diligent experts involved in preparing the review document of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 70/291), which we adopted on 1 July. Special acknowledgement goes to the Secretary-General's initiative to strengthen the joint efforts of the international community in preventing violent extremism and terrorism through his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. For over a month, we experienced a degree of cooperation, understanding, flexibility and involvement that proves that every Member State is committed to a comprehensive and consensual Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

With the conclusion of the fifth review process of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Albania reiterates its alignment with countries that have strong expectations for the implementation of the resolution. We also align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union on 1 July (see A/70/PV.109).

We should all unite in our efforts and commitments to fight against violent extremism. Concrete actions by every single country are required to strengthen the ability of the international community to confront the threats and challenges of terrorism. The Government of Albania expresses its solidarity and deepest sympathy to all the people and the Governments affected by the violent tactics causing the loss of innocent human lives.

Albania continues to encourage the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and remains committed to supporting international cooperation and United Nations instruments on counter-terrorism, in particular those based on the protection of human rights and the promotion of the rule of law.

Regional cooperation is of the utmost importance in effectively addressing the phenomena of violent extremism and foreign terrorist fighters. We continue to join efforts in the implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy as part of a balanced approach. Furthermore, we believe it is essential to develop comprehensive strategies to counter violent extremism at the national level — not just to counter radicalization and recruitment, but also to properly assess and, where possible, reintegrate returning foreign terrorist fighters.

On 18 November 2015, Albania adopted a strategy on countering violent extremism, which is currently being implemented. We are also working to improve regional cooperation on the implementation of conventions aimed at countering and preventing violent extremism by streamlining and better coordinating with the regional cooperation council. In addition, inter-agency work is under way to draft a national strategy on counter-terrorism for the period 2016-2020, which will harmonize the energy and commitment of the Government, civil society and religious communities to make our fight against terrorism more targeted and efficient.

I would like to conclude by welcoming the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review. Albania remains committed to efforts to removing the root causes of terrorism, to building a society that resists the spread of radicalization, to empowering youth and women and to providing support and education, thereby countering extremist ideology at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka): My delegation welcomes the statement issued by the Secretary-General, as well as the statement delivered by the President of the General Assembly (see A/70/PV.109) during this debate on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, which underlined the urgent need to send a strong and unequivocal message that the world will no longer condone or countenance terrorism.

The most recent events of unparalleled carnage across the globe — including in our own region, in Bangladesh, and, preceding that, at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, and thereafter the carnage in Iraq — even while this debate is being held in the General Assembly, are grim reminders, if reminders are still necessary, of the urgent need for determined, collective and concerted action by the international community to counter terrorism. We extend our most sincere condolences to the families of the victims of those dastardly attacks, and we sympathize with those who have suffered injuries.

As a country that suffered under the yoke of terrorism for nearly 30 long years, Sri Lanka stands in solidarity with the friendly Governments and the peoples of Bangladesh, Turkey and Iraq at this sad moment. We condemn those heinous acts of terrorism in the strongest possible terms. These attacks, from Istanbul to Dhaka to Baghdad and elsewhere, are, as the Secretary-General said, an attack on all of us, and it is indeed time for all of us to show solidarity and unity of purpose in combating this scourge. It is in that context that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy becomes essential as a rallying call to action. All acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of the motivation behind them and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever they are committed. Sri Lanka condemns terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations.

As we witnessed in the series of tragic events last week, terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism is not exclusive to any one country or region, but spreads across national borders. This increasing transnational phenomenon challenges existing borders and threatens the very principle of the sovereignty of States, upon which the international legal order is based.

We continue to be deeply concerned about the acute and growing threat of foreign terrorist fighters. With tens of thousands of such fighters hailing from more than 100 States, it is imperative to harness global support and respond more urgently and with greater determination to these threats.

International networks with linkages to organized crime are a critical lifeline for violent extremists and terrorist groups. This is not a phenomenon that a single State or a few States can deal with; rather, it demands a concerted global effort. It is therefore imperative for all Member States to pool their resources and, in particular, share intelligence to prevent and counter this phenomenon.

We must also give due consideration to the fourth pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy — ensuring that human rights and the rule of law are observed in global efforts to counter terrorism. While terrorists have dehumanized us in every way, the international community should not embrace the lawlessness of the terrorist and must never abandon its common humanity, which is what binds us together in our fight against terror. As stipulated in the resolution on the review of the Strategy (resolution 70/291), that would not only betray the values that we seek to uphold, but may also further fuel terrorism and violent extremism.

At the same time, terrorism and violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism, cannot and must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. As the resolution emphasizes, tolerance, pluralism, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among people are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation in combating terrorism.

In many parts of the world, violent extremism targets vulnerable and marginalized communities, children, minorities, women and girls. It is therefore imperative that we proactively include and engage those entities of the United Nations system that deal with children, minorities, women and girls. The large number of children who were victims in the massacre in Baghdad underlines the urgency of such engagement.

The General Assembly unanimously adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. As noble as those objectives are, we must also avoid lapsing into bureaucratic and cyclical practices. States must demonstrate the requisite political will and commitment to close ranks and make a determined and singular effort to overcome this challenge amid the rising toll of innocent human lives around us. We must recognize that the building blocks for a normative framework for enhancing international cooperation in those areas lie in the efforts undertaken by the General Assembly, in particular the work of the United Nations Ad-hoc Committee on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, which has already resulted in a series of sectoral conventions on the suppression of terrorism being adopted.

In that context, I must mention that, despite the support of most Member States and the mandate by the General Assembly to come up with a comprehensive legal framework to fill possible gaps in the existing sectoral conventions on terrorism, it is regrettable that there has been a failure to muster the necessary political will to break the current impasse surrounding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It is also pertinent at this time to recall that the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism was one of the key components

of the 2006 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Detailed elements of a compromise package have been before the Ad-hoc Committee and the working group since 2007. The search for an ideal and a perfect instrument must not become the enemy of the good and result in a collective failure of the Organization and all of its Member States. Any legal instrument we develop will require judicial interpretation having regard to the specificities of particular situations that may arise from time to time. Such provisions are not cast in stone, but must include the elements of flexibility of interpretation and application over time.

The role of the General Assembly over the years in standard-setting has contributed markedly to the progressive development of international law and its codification. However, it is time now to act as one body. Our efforts must not be ones of business as usual. It is time for all Member States to muster the necessary political will to conclude a comprehensive convention, so that the international community sends out a strong and unequivocal sign of its collective will to combat terrorism and contributes to the effective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As someone who has been closely associated with the norm-creating process since the establishment of the Ad-hoc Committee, way back in 1998, let me reiterate to all delegations — with all the sincerity that I can command — that the time for sterile polemic and political debate is over. Too much innocent blood is being spilled with alarming frequency across national frontiers. It is urgent that we act now.

Although much more could have been achieved, nevertheless Sri Lanka welcomes and supports the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We wish to express our deep appreciation to the co-facilitators of the fifth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Ambassador of Argentina and the Ambassador of Iceland, for their indefatigable efforts in this complex task, as well as to reaffirm Sri Lanka's commitment to the effective implementation of the Strategy.

Mr. Waweru (Kenya): Kenya wishes to join previous speakers in congratulating the President and the presidency for the manner in which they have steered the affairs of the General Assembly. Kenya also wishes to thank the delegations of Argentina and Iceland, co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process on the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at its tenth anniversary, for their tireless efforts to build consensus and, at the same time, facilitate agreement among Member States on a balanced document (resolution 70/291) that reflects our aspiration to eradicate terrorism.

At the outset, allow me to reiterate my delegation's commitment to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars as the basis of our collective action against terrorism in a balanced and sustainable manner and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

At this time, we express our solidarity with the Governments and the peoples of the countries that have suffered, and continue to suffer, unnecessary loss of life perpetrated through cowardly, backward and evil terrorist attacks by retrogressive forces in various parts of the world.

On 1 July, when we were last here (see A/70/PV.110), near our northern border two passenger buses were sprayed with bullets by a cowardly gang and criminal group associated with the Al-Shabaab terrorist network. On that day, six innocent Kenyans lost their lives. Those cowards have now resorted to targeting innocent civilians going about their daily lives. They include children, as in the case of the attacks in Israel; travellers, as in the case of the attacks in Turkey; and worshipers breaking their fast, as in the case of the attacks in Cameroon. Also since we were last here a week ago, we have seen attacks in Bangladesh, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. We commiserate with the delegations and the peoples of those countries. However, Kenya will not be cowed into a state of fear. Kenyan security forces are actively pursuing that criminal gang. On this occasion, we also want to thank the United Nations and all Member States for their kind words at yet another difficult time.

The threat posed by international terrorism is the greatest challenge to sustaining peace and sustainable development. It is a global challenge that requires concerted international efforts to eradicate. Terrorists have become more sophisticated, globalized, cruel and brutal as they continue to proliferate into various forms, such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria/Da'esh, Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and other groups emerging in various parts of the world. Kenya welcomes the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism as a basis for each Member State to put its political will into concrete action against terrorism according to its unique national

characteristics. We are currently aligning our counter-terrorism strategy and national action plan with the Plan of Action to enable us to enhance preventative actions, in particular through early-warning systems at the local and grass-roots level, as that is one of the most effective ways to snuff out the terrorist supply chain of new recruits. Prevention will also delegitimize the radicalization of violent extremist narrative online and off-line before it gains ground.

Both the resolution we adopted and the Plan of Action focus on and call upon Member States and the entire United Nations system to cooperate, collaborate and work together to conclusively address this problem. In order to succeed, the international community must fully unite. We must never allow political differences to divide us in our efforts against a common existential threat. The United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, has an important role to play in order to positively advance the war against terror in a focused and united manner.

At the national level, Kenya has established a national counter-terrorism centre that serves as an inter-agency organization to coordinate the implementation of our national counter-terrorism strategy and action plan. Our national efforts are inspired by the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. With the enhanced coordination of national efforts, we have achieved a dramatic reduction in the number and intensity of terrorists attacks. Through increased public engagement at all levels, the war against terrorism is being prosecuted and executed by law enforcement agencies, the citizenry and local communities as a call to defend national values, democracy, freedom and our way of life.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm our delegation's commitment to the realization of a stronger United Nations counter-terrorism architecture through sustained engagement and cooperation to ensure the adaptation and timely implementation of various recommendations in the outcome of the current review.

Mr. Khoshroo (Islamic Republic of Iran): Let me begin by condemning the recent terrorist attacks in Iraq, Syria, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Lebanon and by expressing my condolences to all the victims of terrorism. These tragic events demonstrate how united and global action is imperative to countering terrorism.

I would also like to begin by commending the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iceland and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina and their colleagues for the hard work in facilitating the text of the fifth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 70/291).

As we convene today to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and in the two years since we adopted resolution 68/276, on the previous review, tens of thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children, have fallen victim to terrorism worldwide. Meanwhile, the number of foreign terrorist fighters has reached a record number of 31,000 individuals, who pose a serious threat to international and regional peace and security. There are still millions of people living under terrorists' domination in Iraq and Syria. Terrorism is a multidimensional issue, and it can be defeated only if a comprehensive plan is put in place and implemented by the various relevant stakeholders in a coordinated manner. There should also be a certain level of cooperation among all actors genuinely committed to fighting terrorism, in particular at the regional level. The Strategy provides such a common platform for cooperation.

This year we have before us the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism" (A/70/674), which was drafted in response to the request made in resolution 68/127, on "A world against violence and violent extremism", which was initially proposed by President Rouhani and adopted by consensus by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013. President Rouhani's idea in proposing the resolution emerged from his insight that extremist elements in the region and beyond were becoming radicalized, leading to increased violence and terrorism.

Violent extremism is the most critical challenge the world faces today. It is clear that takfiri ideology, which has nothing to do with Islam, lies at very core of the great predicament of our time. The international community needs, first and foremost, to focus on this vicious ideology, which seeks to instil hatred and anger in the hearts and minds of youth everywhere in the world. Al-Qaida and the Taliban were the first so-called achievements of this extremist ideology, while the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Jabhat al-Nusra and its affiliates are the most recent.

As a consequence of extremist ideologies held by takfiri groups, thousands of individuals from more than 100 countries have joined ISIL and Al-Qaida and their affiliated networks, mainly in Syria and Iraq, and have committed terrorist and other heinous inhumane acts, thereby threatening security, stability and the well-being of the societies where they operate. We could have avoided the current situation had we earlier addressed this phenomenon apart from any political or short-sighted considerations. That is why we should focus on prevention and address conditions conducive to violent extremism and terrorism. In that regard, we welcome this year's debate on addressing the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. It is imperative that Member States also strive to develop their own national plans to deal comprehensively with all the drivers of violent extremism, including by countering extremist narratives that aim to incite mainly young individuals to violence and terrorism.

For decades, a number of the root causes and factors have led or contributed to the spread of terrorism. The unlawful use of force against other States, foreign aggression and occupation and foreign interference in the internal affairs of other States, to name but a few, are among such causes and factors. Moreover, the excessive and disproportionate use of military force in the name of countering terrorism creates fertile ground for vicious cycles of violence and terrorism.

We are of the view that countering terrorism should be done in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international human rights and humanitarian law. The use of force in combating terrorism by outside forces without the explicit consent of the State concerned constitutes a flagrant violation of the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which in turn endangers the rule of law at the international level.

Iran opposes any attempt to equate terrorism with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. Such equivalence is aimed at prolonging occupation of territories and oppression of their peoples. The use of State power for suppression and violence against peoples struggling in opposition to foreign occupation and in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned.

My delegation rejects the accusations made by representative of the Israeli regime, which itself was built on the basis of intimidation, terror and occupation. The regime is well known as the single most significant practitioner of State terrorism and is responsible for many terrorist acts. Its atrocities against the Palestinian people over many decades have fuelled the extremism crisis and other crises in our region and beyond.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the target of terrorist acts in many different forms and manifestations. We strongly reject the unilateral preparation of lists accusing certain States of being so-called sponsors of terrorism, as well as any consequences thereof. Unilaterally prepared lists are inconsistent with international law and are being used as a political tool to advance other agendas, with the political goal of enlisting the support of Governments. Such unilateral acts, including through the misuse of judicial means, not only violate certain principles of international law but also undermine urgently required joint efforts by all States to counter terrorism.

The recent political decision of the courts of the United States to seize properties of the Central Bank of Iran is a clear example of abusing banking and financial networks for fake and unsubstantiated claims to pressure our nation. The Iranian Government is committed to using all possible means at its disposal, including making a claim at the International Court of Justice, to recover its properties that were illegally seized by the United States authorities.

In conclusion, we must recognize that selective or double standards and the simple categorization of some kinds of terrorism as "good" and other kinds as "bad" terrorism based on short-term political interests will not help us to uproot terrorism. Such wrong-minded approaches only undermine international trust and cooperation in countering terrorism. The international community's approach to fighting this scourge should be unified and indiscriminate. Just as we have successfully accomplished the fifth biennial review of the Strategy over the past two days, so must we carefully follow up with national, regional and global plans to implement the Strategy in a comprehensive way, with the cooperation of all, in a balanced manner and with sufficient attention to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while avoiding double standards and discrimination for better and lasting results.

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): My delegation would first like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this fifth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also wish to thank the Secretary General for his report on the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of the United Nations (A/70/826), as well as for his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, contained in resolution 70/254, adopted last February, the General Assembly called for a review of the Plan of Action as part of the meeting to be held to review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

My delegation warmly congratulates His Excellency Mr. Martín Garcia Moritán, Permanent Representative of Argentina, and His Excellency Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, for the efforts and energy they deployed in co-facilitating the negotiations on the important resolution 70/291, adopted at such a difficult time. We also offer our congratulations to their staff for the efforts they made in this laborious work.

Not a day goes by without terrorist attacks being perpetrated here and there. The despicable terrorist attacks that struck Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Iraq, Turkey, Jordan, Brussels, San Bernardino, Orlando and Paris, as well as other parts of the world, are horrible, reprehensible acts. My delegation therefore condemns these attacks in the strongest possible terms, offers its condolences to the families of the victims and reiterates the steadfast position of the Kingdom of Morocco in firmly condemning terrorism in all its forms and underlining that nothing can justify a terrorist act. Terrorism must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

The Moroccan delegation aligns itself with the statement made by His Excellency Mr. Abdallah Y Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109), and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

The adoption of the United Nations Global-Counter Terrorism Strategy in September 2006 was a turning point in the direction of the efforts of the international community in the fight against terrorism. However, since the review meeting of 2014 (see A/68/PV.94 *et seq.*), the world has been turned upside down and is reeling from the new reality that large swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria are under the control of what is known as the Islamic State, or Da'esh. Moreover, the world has seen the unprecedented proliferation of terrorist groups affiliated with Da'esh or Al-Qaida. Those terrorist groups lack all legitimate ties to Islam and are far removed from the precepts of Islam. Their ideology is one of death, obscurantism and the rejection of all values shared by humankind.

Da'esh continues to spread its destructive ideology and recruits young people from throughout the world. More than 30,000 foreign terrorist fighters have joined its ranks. The financial rewards that have resulted from the illegal trafficking of oil, works of art and cultural property — as well as the exploitation of communication technologies linked to the Internet and social media, including Facebook and Twitter, among others — have allowed Da'esh to recruit foreign terrorist fighters from throughout the world, mobilize them and deploy them to carry out attacks. Furthermore, a rivalry has emerged between the terrorist groups Al-Qaida and Da'esh to see how far each group can extend its influence and perpetrate further bloody attacks.

The fifth review meeting, which coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Strategy, is taking place in the context of that growing terrorist threat. That calls for a dynamic solidarity to counter the scourge of terrorism and the violent extremism that leads to terrorism. Consequently, the Moroccan delegation has participated in the fifth review actively, seriously and constructively in order to reach a consensual text. My delegation welcomes the consensus adoption of resolution 70/291. The text presented by the two co-facilators is built on a compromise in which some of the concerns of each delegation is addressed. The objective of this exercise is to agree on suitable means for implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and meet the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism.

The adoption of the resolution by consensus also seeks to send a strong message of the international community's unity and solidarity in fighting terrorism. Similarly, it recognizes the importance of the United Nations as a cornerstone in coordinating the fight against terrorism and the relevance of multilateral work. It is also a means of invigorating the sustainability of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, giving it life and the ability to meet the challenges. A sound and balanced implementation of its four pillars will surely contribute to countering terrorism and violent

extremism. Those are the main elements that are reflected in the resolution.

My delegation welcomes the resolution's particular focus on the fight against foreign terrorist fighters and the threat of their return home through measures curbing their movement, draining their financial resources, controlling borders, fighting terrorist narratives and ideologies, promoting international cooperation, recognizing the role of young people and women in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, and reaffirming the importance of respect for every State's sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity. Those are all shared points on which the international community is in agreement in the resolution.

It is in that spirit and objective that the Kingdom of Morocco joined the consensus. On this occasion, my delegation wishes once again to congratulate the two co-facilitators for their efforts and the serious manner in which they discharged their responsibility. The interest of Member States in the implementation of all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the provisions of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), on foreign terrorist fighters, and 2253 (2015), on suppressing the sources of financing for terrorism, requires the United Nations to play an important role to help them in that work by training leaders in developing countries and supporting the upgrade of their legal, criminal and security resources in order to fight terrorism more effectively.

The Kingdom of Morocco takes this opportunity to welcome the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and to thank Saudi Arabia for its $100 million donation to enhance its operation. It also welcomes the efforts carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and will continue to fully cooperate with them.

The Kingdom of Morocco is committed to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism at the United Nations and in other forums, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF), which it has co-chaired with the Netherlands since April. In the framework of the GCTF, our two countries also co-chair the Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. At the national level, Morocco has developed a comprehensive and coherent approach oriented towards prevention and action, while being consistent with the provisions of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Kingdom of Morocco's approach to countering terrorism and violent extremism was the subject of a briefing to the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee at a high-level event on 30 September 2014. It was based on the following four principles.

The first involves optimizing security management, upgrading the legal counter-terrorism framework, adopting new laws and maintaining vigilance in security, which has allowed for the dismantling of several dozen terrorist cells.

The second involves the 2005 launch of the National Initiative for Human Development, aimed at fighting social disparity, exclusion and vulnerability.

The third deals with restructuring and reforming the religious sector, in particular by establishing a scholarly authority responsible for interpreting the texts of the Koran and the Hadith — the explanations of the Prophet — and by training young men and women preachers in the authentic precepts of Islam, based on the values of dialogue, tolerance, moderation, coexistence and respect for others advocated by our religion, Islam.

The last involves the launch of a programme for the deradicalization, rehabilitation and integration of foreign terrorist fighters. Morocco has shared its experience in training preachers with several friendly countries in Africa, Europe and in the Muslim world through bilateral agreements.

Mr. Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan): The delegation of Kazakhstan thanks the President for convening this meeting and the Permanent Representatives and delegations of Argentina and Iceland, our very able coordinators of the consultations on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also thank the Secretary-General for his report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/70/826).

The fight against international terrorism demands a long-term and comprehensive approach and regional and global cooperation, with the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations. As a party to all major international conventions on the fight against terrorism, Kazakhstan welcomes the consensus

acnieved by the General Assembly on the fifth review of the Strategy.

Kazakhstan has always stood for strengthening the national capabilities of the States Members of the United Nations to address international terrorism and violent extremism through regional and international cooperation. We should never lose sight of the human dimension of terrorism. My country is therefore of the conviction that the implementation of the Strategy at the regional and national levels is also crucial to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kazakhstan is guided by the Strategy and the other international universal instruments it has ratified and is actively engaged in the work of regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We are also enhancing our cooperation with such United Nations entities as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and others.

At the regional level, we are actively implementing the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, adopted in 2011, which equally addresses all four pillars of the Strategy and remains an important instrument for enhancing cooperation in countering terrorism among the countries of Central Asia. The Plan was elaborated by States of the region, the CTITF, the European Union and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

At the national level, we have adopted a State programme to counter religious extremism and terrorism in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the 2013-2017 period, which is a significant tool that is fully aligned with the ideas of the Global Strategy. The main goal of the programme is to ensure the security of the people, the State and society through improved measures to minimize and eliminate the consequences of this double scourge. Special attention is being paid to increasing the active engagement of society, local communities and non-governmental organizations in prevention efforts and in revamping outreach activities among target groups.

Recent developments in the different regions of the world show the need for effective joint action in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. In that regard, we would like to mention the very relevant initiatives undertaken by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan during the General Assembly's debates last year, such as establishing a United Nations-led counter-terrorism coalition, developing a common mechanism for tracing, detaining and extraditing the perpetrators of violent extremism and terrorism, and establishing a unified list of terrorist organizations. Therefore, we welcome the adoption of resolution 70/291, on the fifth review of the Global Strategy, as a step forward in that direction.

Prevention is always among our top priorities; we therefore welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to address this issue by presenting his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674). We call on delegations to further develop and extend the scope of the Secretary-General's initiative.

As an important measure to prevent terrorism and violent extremism and with a view to promoting dialogue, Kazakhstan triennially convenes in Astana the Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, bringing together religious and political leaders to promote peace. In like manner, we hold inclusive and democratic gatherings of citizens and youth groups in every locality of our country through the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan. On 6 May, at the initiative of Kazakhstan and Jordan, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly, convened a high-level debate on religions for peace, which issued very significant recommendations for the future.

To conclude, we join with others in offering our sympathy and condolences to those States that suffered from the recent terrorist attacks. The Republic of Kazakhstan reiterates its commitment to working with other States Members of the United Nations to more effectively combat the ever-increasing scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Albatayneh (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to express my deep thanks and gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Iceland for their commendable efforts as facilitators of the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I also wish to express my sincere condolences to all of the victims of the terrorist acts, especially in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iraq.

This year's review, which falls on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Strategy, regrettably coincides with an increase in terrorist acts throughout the world. Last month, one such dastardly terrorist act struck my country and soldiers. This year's review constitutes a turning point in the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism and address a variety of issues, including by striving to adapt the United Nations and its specialized bodies to combat terrorism internally and implementing the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), which Jordan welcomes as an important, non-binding guideline for Member States to develop their national plans in consonance with the principle of national ownership in order to address all the factors that contribute to the growth of violent extremism.

My delegation is fully satisfied with the resolution and welcomes its adoption. We also welcome the consensus reached despite some differences in points of view. I would like to raise several issues in that regard. First, it is important for Member States to develop domestic plans to combat violent extremism according to their national needs. Secondly, we must address the threats posed by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and the exploitation of terrorists of information and communications technology and social networks. Thirdly, we must continue to empower our youth to combat terrorism and violent extremism, and protect them from falling prey to terrorist organizations. Fourthly, we must prioritize strengthening cooperation, integration, coordination and synergy among the United Nations organs. Fifthly, before granting asylum, all States should take the necessary steps to safeguard their country and citizens.

In closing, combating and preventing terrorism requires the joint efforts and continuous coordination of all stakeholders in order to support the countries on the front line, such as Jordan.

Mrs. Zarrouk Boumiza (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset to express my delegation's sincere condolences to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Bangladesh, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan following the terrorist attacks in their countries. I would also like to thank you, Sir, for presiding over this debate on the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to commend the Secretary-General for his report (A/70/826), which highlights the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy.

I also thank the Ambassadors of Argentina and Iceland and their teams for their professionalism and commendable efforts to facilitate the negotiations on the fifth review of the Strategy, and for obtaining a consensus on resolution 70/291, adopted on 1 July, which in our view marks an important step in the adaptation of our response to the current challenges posed by terrorism.

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in this debate, which allows my country to reaffirm its full support for the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its global implementation, and to reiterate that both the General Assembly and the Security Council should continue to play a central role in guiding future United Nations efforts to combat terrorism and to prevent violent extremism.

Tunisia owes its success to the commitment of all stakeholders to dialogue and compromise, and to the active participation of civil society in overcoming the difficulties of the democratic transition, including through the adoption of a new Constitution and the holding of free and transparent legislative and presidential elections in 2014. These actions earned my country, among other accolades, the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015.

These important and prestigious advances, however, cannot hide the challenges we face. In framing today's debate, I would note in particular the challenge of combating terrorism, because it is truly an unprecedented challenge for my country. In addressing it, Tunisia has adopted a comprehensive approach based on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

This fight is difficult and costly and requires sacrifice. Tunisia pays a ringing tribute to those brave men and women who have sacrificed so much in defending its democratic achievements, protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, respecting the decisions of our people, preserving our deeply rooted Arab-Muslim identity, and translating the success of our democratic transition into socioeconomic gains that help the most vulnerable populations, thereby pre-empting the radicalization of the most materially and intellectually disenfranchised.

In the short term, this task is not easy. No one will deny that the regional climate is under continuous threat from successive waves of tension and conflicts, without real prospects of sustainable solutions for

some. However, Tunisia is committed to combating this phenomenon through the rule of law. Tunisia has therefore worked to align its new organic law to combat terrorism and money-laundering, enacted in August 2015, with international counter-terrorism instruments and the relevant Security Council resolutions. The law criminalizes support, incitement, training, recruitment, justifications, and travel to conflict zones, consistent with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2178 (2014). Through this law, we have also established a legal framework to combat terrorism and a national commission to combat terrorism and extremist violence, which is tasked, inter alia, with ensuring that we follow through with our international counter-terrorism commitments.

We have also recently developed, in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, a national strategy inspired by the United Nations counter-terrorism methodology and approach. It is a comprehensive and multisectoral strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism on the basis of four pillars: prevention, protection, follow-up and response. Under its prevention pillar, it seeks to thwart the direct or indirect recruitment of youth, particularly via the Internet, to counter the doctrines of terrorist groups and thereby reduce their impact on the most vulnerable populations in society. Moreover, the strategy recommends bolstering pedagogical approaches; promoting a culture of dialogue, peace and tolerance; preventing radicalization; pursuing development in marginalized zones and regions; and rejecting any and all justifications for terrorist acts.

New measures have been implemented along those lines. In that connection, in 2016 the Ministry of Religious Affairs launched a campaign under the slogan "Tomorrow will be better", aimed at mentoring our young people and promoting moderate Islam through art, culture and communication. In particular, the campaign intends to create an interactive website and a call centre tasked with responding to young people's questions about religion. Events are also being planned in schools, cultural venues and in other places throughout the country where our young people need the most guidance.

Similarly, the Minister of National Education has published white papers on educational reform in Tunisia, under the slogan "For high-performing, equitable Tunisian schools that educate citizens and elevate the country". The fruit of in-depth national consultations with all stakeholders, the project primarily focuses on the importance of protecting young people in schools from violent extremism in the framework of social, educational and cultural measures, and highlights the importance of ensuring the interaction of educational institutions with their social environment and civil society. It also stresses the need to promote active citizenry, bolster youth resilience to violent extremism, and address all forms of violence at school.

In the same vein, we are ensuring that civil society and all actors participate, because this fight — a fight for the right to life that must triumph over the culture of death, a fight against a common enemy — belongs to us all. That is why we the peoples of the United Nations, to echo the first words of the Charter of the United Nations, must continue to play an essential role in supporting the efforts of countries in need to end this transnational threat. That is the common thread we have detected in the many statements made at this debate: a common enemy and a common strategy. This strategy requires joint action at all levels. Our weak link is that we have not yet been able to respond jointly to the needs created by this common threat, despite the commendable efforts of certain countries.

Consequently, we welcome the fact that the resolution on the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy prioritizes the strengthening of the capacities of Member State to adapt to the constantly evolving international terrorist trends, and that the text recognizes the need to devote additional financial resources to this effort and invites the Secretary-General to issue concrete recommendations by May 2017.

Finally, we reiterate the resolution's call for Member States to allocate financial resources and provide assistance of all types to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and to the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism in order to implement States' capacity-building plans to curb the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, which is a more concerted and coherent approach.

Mr. Yusuf (Somalia): The vast majority of the people of Somalia reject violent extremism. The Somali Government would like to take this opportunity to extend its heartfelt condolences to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iraq, Bangladesh and the families, friends and loved ones of all the innocent victims who were affected by these evil tragedies. We stand in solidarity

with the brotherly people of Turkey, as well as the world in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. We mourn with them and share their deep loss.

I commend the President of the General Assembly on the successful completion of the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also like to thank the co-facilitators Ambassador of Argentina Martín Garcia Moritán and Ambassador of Iceland, Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, for their leadership and assiduous efforts in the process of reaching an agreement on resolution 70/291, on the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Somali Government expresses its gratitude to the United Nations for raising global awareness on preventing and countering violent extremism, and to all the participants, especially those Member States that have shared with us their experiences, challenges and practices. Working across Government, with the active involvement of regional administrations, as well as civil society, the Federal Government of Somalia, with the support of the European Union and the blueprint Somalia project, has developed a comprehensive Somali-owned, Somali-led national strategy and plan of action for preventing and countering violent extremism.

Our efforts in developing this strategy also highlight the importance of working closely with our international partners. The Secretary-General recently recommended that each Member State develop a national plan of action that sets national priorities for addressing the local drivers of violent extremism. He also stressed the importance of developing action plans in a multidisciplinary manner to include countering and preventing violent extremism measures, with input from a wide range of Government actors, such as law enforcement, social service providers and ministries of education and religious affairs, as well as non-governmental actors, such as women, the private sector and civil-society leaders. Our strategy and plan of action take all these recommendations on board. They lay out the collective vision of the Federal Government of Somalia and develop initiatives to better understand and prevent and counter extremist influences, which threaten Somalia's security and stability. It forms an essential and complementary element to the Somali Government's efforts to address national security threats within a framework of good governance, human rights and the rule of law.

In conclusion, we are very encouraged by the progress made towards the inclusive process, which has gone into this Strategy and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/694). We have no doubt that the guidance this document provides will help Somalia to become more resilient and to find the lasting peace we all want and deserve.

Mr. Munir (Pakistan): I would like to express our profound gratitude to Ambassadors Moritán and Gunnarsson for leading a fair, transparent and consultative process of review. We commend their tireless efforts towards a consensual adoption of resolution 70/291.

We also appreciate the constructive spirit of all delegations. Indeed, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy deserves a strong and united message from Member States.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109).

The sad events of the past few days in Turkey, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia have served as a harrowing reminder of the challenges we face today — a reminder that our task does not finish with the adoption of the resolution. The scourge of terrorism continues and has indeed intensified. While our resolve remains firm, our mission remains unaccomplished. The revised and updated Strategy captures our collective determination to continue pursuing recommendations in four key areas: tackling the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; preventing and combating terrorism; building the capacities of Member States for implementation and ensuring respect for human rights while countering terrorism.

Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to fight this battle, regardless of the cost. My country has made huge sacrifices in this battle, yet we persevere. Our resolve and determination continue to strengthen. No country is immune to terrorism or its negative effects, and no country alone can defeat this menace. The only way forward in this fight is strengthening international cooperation. And the United Nations, with its cardinal principles that seek to enhance the same, provides the best vehicle for the

purpose. The resolution we adopted last week represents the collective will of the General Assembly.

Since the adoption of the Strategy 10 years ago, Pakistan has accorded high importance to its implementation. Few countries can match the national efforts undertaken by Pakistan for the cause of counter-terrorism; fewer still can match our sacrifices. Two years ago, Pakistan elaborated in detail its comprehensive efforts at the national level to counter terrorism. Since then, we have further intensified measures and organized our efforts. Our law enforcement operation, Zarb-e-Azab, has had significant success. It is the single largest national counter-terrorism operation anywhere in the world. We will continue this operation until we have achieved our objectives.

The establishment of special courts for terrorist offenders, arms-control measures and the strengthening of the national counter-terrorism authority and the financial monitoring unit are all part of our robust countermeasures against terrorism. Last year, thanks to our national legislative measures, the Financial Action Task Force acknowledged that our counter-financing for terrorism measures were in line with its recommendations.

We have also shaped a 20-point national action plan to counter terrorism with a lot of focus on preventive actions. This includes measures against hate speech and sectarian violence, the protection of minorities, the prevention of exploitation of the media and Internet by terrorists and violent extremists, developing an effective counternarrative to terrorist propaganda, the reform of the educational system, the registration and regularization of madrassas, political reconciliation and economic uplift programmes for targeted areas, criminal justice sector reform and, finally, the registration of refugees.

Fully realizing the need for a whole-of-society approach, the Government of Pakistan has undertaken concerted efforts towards the promotion and protection of women's rights, enhancing the capacity of our law-enforcement agencies and harnessing the potential of youth. The Prime Minister's youth programme has benefited thousands of youth in completing education or pursuing higher studies, as well as encouraging entrepreneurship with a view to providing them hope and a future while saving them from despair and despondency.

In pursuing our goals, we have also benefited from cooperation with United Nations agencies, in particular our work with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for a youth skills development programme and partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for enhancing the capacity of our criminal justice sector. While Pakistan, in its national capacity, will continue to do all it can, there are many areas of work, both in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, which require bilateral and international cooperation for success. Pakistan is keen on creating an environment that is conducive to such cooperation.

Before I conclude, let me assure you, Sir, of Pakistan's continued and tireless efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism nationally, regionally and internationally, as well as to pursue our constructive engagement with other Member States to build a consensual and normative framework to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. Al-Hajri (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, Qatar aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109).

I wish to extend our appreciation to the co-facilitators of the consultations on resolution 70/291 for their efforts.

I would like to express our condemnation of all terrorist acts, including the cowardly criminal attacks against Saudi Arabia. Those acts run counter to all humanitarian and ethical values, as well as the tolerance found in Islamic teachings. We would also like to express our support for all measures and procedures to be adopted by Saudi Arabia in order to protect its security and stability.

The ongoing terrorist attacks in a number of regions around the world mean that terrorism has no religion, no identity and no nationality. Therefore, we must fight it at all levels. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is the appropriate framework for such collective efforts. In that regard, I would like to reiterate Qatar's commitment to the Strategy and its determination to safeguard peace and security in the world. Therefore, we must reject any association of terrorism with any culture or religion. We must respect all civilizations and religions and the values of coexistence and tolerance. We must

distinguish between the right to self-determination and the fight against foreign occupation and terrorism. We must also stress that, in countering terrorism, we must also respect international humanitarian law and human rights law.

In response to the aspirations of youth, we need to establish programmes and an educational framework that includes and integrates them, while also addressing unemployment and countering terrorist narratives. Concern for our youth therefore remains an integral part of our policies at the national level. We have also taken the initiative, in collaboration with other partners, of convening a high-level meeting of the General Assembly focused on children and youth affected by violent extremism and on reintegrating them into society.

The threat posed by terrorist groups that recruit and move terrorists across borders also needs to be addressed. However, the security response should be complemented with addressing the root causes and motivations behind this phenomenon. Terrorism was not created in a vacuum; it grew and developed in fragile environments. It should be addressed within the framework of the rule of law and adopting a comprehensive approach. Qatar is focusing greater attention on working with national and international mechanisms for uprooting terrorism and addressing its root causes. We have adopted a number of laws commensurate with the new challenges. We have also established specialized national institutions, such as the national counter-terrorism centre and a body to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Those institutions are implementing instruments adopted by the international community to eradicate terrorism.

In conclusion, representatives of the Syrian regime have failed in their efforts to label as terrorists those Syrians who are demanding their legitimate rights and those countries that have expressed support for such demands or that have condemned the regime's reppressive policies. It is ironic that the representatives of a regime that practices State-sponsored terrorism is labelling as terrorist countries that are known within the United Nations system as being committed to respect for human rights, as well as to international law at the national and international levels. Those are the very countries known for their active contributions to resolving disputes through peaceful means.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in expressing heartfelt sadness and condolences to those countries that have lost citizens as a result of the recent barbarous terrorist attacks. Many countries have been affected in every region of the world.

I would also like to thank the Ambassador of Argentina and the Ambassador of Iceland and their teams for having passionately and positively negotiated resolution 70/291, adopted by the General Assembly last week, concerning the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which came into being 10 years ago. The r resolution symbolizes the international community's shared determination to stand together as we fight the forces of evil as represented by terrorism. This common effort is very much in line with the thinking of President Paul Biya of Cameroon, who has repeatedly stated that a global problem requires a global solution.

In the Lake Chad Basin generally, and in the far north of my country in particular, the terrorist group Boko Haram has struck once again, this time on 29 June in the locality of Djakana, where they indiscriminately killed 11 young people and seriously wounded four others. The group was robustly confronted by my country's defence and security forces. Faced with that determination, the terrorists have for some time chosen the kamikaze method of action, which is cowardice exercised by those who have no other way to respond. My country is working together with a multinational joint task force on the security front. We have no doubt that we will prevail, as civil society has established self-defence committees in the combat zones. The people of Cameroon have risen up as one in the spirit of national solidarity, and they are providing assistance in kind to support the soldiers who are fighting. Our forces obviously fight quite fiercely, while respecting human rights and international law.

On the humanitarian front, intensive fighting has been taking place with the support of United Nations bodies and humanitarian agencies in the Lake Chad Basin, in the far north, in the Adamawa region and in the eastern part of my country, which have been hosting a great number of refugees and internally displaced persons.

On the diplomatic front, the Peace and Security Council of the Community of Central African States, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and

the United Nations Security Council have mobilized on several occasions, and their support has strengthened the fight of the countries in the Lake Chad region.

With regard to our efforts in the area of socioeconomic development, on the initiative of President Biya, the Government has put in place an emergency plan to implement development projects in the region in order to prevent poverty and abject poverty from being used as a catalyst for further exacerbating the conflict.

Lastly, Cameroon's imams and religious leaders are organizing nationally and locally regular sermons on peace, equity, philanthropy, tolerance, love for one's neighbour, charity and moderation, which are the true values of Islam. Those efforts are aimed at deradicalizing the minds of people and avoiding extremism and obscurantism, sources of indiscriminate violence.

Let me conclude by thanking all our bilateral and multilateral partners that are actively supporting us in many ways to help our country and the countries in the Lake Chad Basin to eradicate Boko Haram, which the Security Council has listed as a terrorist organization. As is underscored by resolution 70/291, financial contributions and capacity-building must be allocated to our country and those in the Lake Chad Basin that are facing the conflict and fighting the Boko Haram group. Today more than yesterday, tomorrow more than today and the day after tomorrow more than tomorrow, the international community has to stand against Boko Haram collectively and resolutely here in the General Assembly and ask the Security Council to use all the means at its disposal for prevention and action, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to counter all the terrorist movements that abuse Islam — which in fact has nothing to do with extremists' obscurantism, which is attributable to a despicable charlatan.

Mr. Bessedik (Algeria): At the outset, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the President of the General Assembly for the importance he has attached to the fifth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representative of Iceland and the Permanent Representative of Argentina, for their efforts in coordinating the process and helping to reach consensus on review resolution 70/291.

Algeria associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109).

My delegation would like to reiterate once more its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those acts and activities that support, encourage, justify or promote it directly or indirectly. Terrorism has no religion, no homeland, no borders and no justification. It should in no way be associated with any particular culture, religion, civilization or human community.

Algeria supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the outstanding efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force through its work as a focal point for the bodies and entities involved in implementing the Strategy. In that regard, I would like to stress the necessity of preserving the biennial review process of the Strategy, aimed at the Strategy's enrichment and its adaptation to the changing requirements for combating terrorism, including the evolving challenges that this transnational scourge presents. That is also required to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of its four pillars in a comprehensive manner. We note that the resolution that we have adopted reflects that need.

My delegation would like to underline the importance of consolidating efforts with regard to the Strategy by enhancing cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels, strengthening capabilities and exchanging best practices and expertise on combating terrorism. In that regard, it is important to highlight the role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in consolidating the Strategy's pillars and encouraging Member States to provide it with adequate financial and human resources.

We welcome the reaffirmation in resolution 70/291 by the General Assembly of its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of all States in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, within the framework of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. On every occasion, Algeria has called for this commitment to be observed. In addition, we believe that any selective approach towards the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations is simply not acceptable. Such a selective approach might have a counter effect. To be more

explicit: the international community cannot evade its responsibilities with regard to the realization of the right to self-determination of all peoples that are still under foreign occupation and alien domination.

In that regard, we welcome the reaffirmation in this year's resolution of Member States' determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflicts, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and the rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures. Furthermore, the fight against violent extremism and terrorism must also include the rejection of xenophobia and Islamophobia, which are emerging as the new faces of violent extremism.

Algeria has learned a precious lesson from its bitter experience in the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and its roots. Since the last review process in 2014, and during the past two years, my country, Algeria, has taken significant qualitative steps and made tremendous efforts in preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism. Those steps consolidate the achievements of the historical reconciliation policy submitted by the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in the form of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, which was adopted in a referendum by an overwhelming majority of the Algerian people.

Our experience shows that, as important as it may be, the total defeat of terrorism using security measures alone will always fail because terrorism will always exploit and use the shortcomings existing in every society to justify its actions. Algeria firmly believes that the battle to be waged against this dreadful scourge must be enacted daily and encompass all areas of activity, including the political, institutional, economic, cultural, religious, educational and social realms. Any hope of success requires the active involvement of all national institutions, all societal stakeholders and all citizens.

The Algerian authorities therefore adopted a strategy designed to shield each citizen and society as a whole from any influence or manipulation by the advocates of violent extremism and terrorism. That strategy is implemented at several levels. It is based, first, on permanently strengthening participatory democracy; secondly, on the rule of law and social justice; and, thirdly, on promoting development that offers equal opportunities for each and every citizen. All those aspects are addressed and well framed in a comprehensive way in our national plan for deradicalization and prevention against violent extremism.

Obviously, the fight against terrorism and violent extremism requires greater attention, and must be the subject of sustained bilateral, regional and international cooperation. Algeria's efforts to combat terrorism have always been aimed at increasing regional and international cooperation, even before the manifestation of the major acts of international terrorism that the world has known. From the outset, Algeria has sought to strengthen Africa's efforts against terrorism at the Africa level, and, as a result, many international instruments and initiatives have emerged and are playing a very important role today in enhancing the effectiveness of Africa's efforts in that regard.

In the Sahel region, the concept of coordination and cooperation finds its full potential in view of the prevailing situation, which requires both coordination and strengthening the capacities of the countries of the region. In that regard, Algeria has engaged in a concerted approach through various cooperation mechanisms. To name just one recent activity at the regional level, on 27 and 28 April Algeria hosted the consultative meeting on the start-up of the African Union mechanism for police cooperation with the participation of the African Union Commission and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism. My country stressed the need for enhanced cooperation among police and law-enforcement agencies in Africa and the benefits of such cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime and terrorism.

My country appreciates the level of our cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and specialized programmes in combating terrorism and is willing to develop it further. In addition, Algeria's membership in the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum reflects its commitment to participating in every relevant forum to promote international cooperation against terrorism. In that context, Algeria co-chairs with Canada the working group on strengthening capabilities against terrorism in the Sahel region. Algeria has also hosted and participated in a number of coordination and assessment activities aimed at strengthening capabilities

and exchanging expertise in order to implement best practices in addressing terrorism in all its aspects.

In conclusion, Algeria hopes that the resolution that we adopted by consensus last Friday will be another effective building block within our collective endeavours to combat and eliminate international terrorism.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with resolution 48/5, of 13 October 1993, I now give the floor to the observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ms. Deininger (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe): I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Anti-Terrorism Unit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) Transnational Threats Department.

For the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, it is an honour to participate in the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The OSCE is a valuable partner in effectively preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism. In implementing the Strategy, the OSCE uses its comparative advantages, namely, generating political will among its 57 participating States; raising awareness among State authorities, civil society and the private sector; and building capacity on the ground.

Since the previous review, in 2014, the OSCE has undertaken several key activities, first, to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and, secondly, to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. We would also like to offer three recommendations for improving collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the OSCE.

Let me outline our mandate in counter-terrorism. As the largest regional security arrangements under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE is committed to support the implementation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions. We base our action on a comprehensive mandate agreed by consensus by our 57 participating States, which span an area from Vancouver to Vladivostok, via Vienna. In the light of the global increase in terrorist incidents, that mandate has been reaffirmed and strengthened.

In 2014, the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel pledged our support for the implementation of Security Council 2178 (2014), on the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. In December 2015, the Ministerial Council in Belgrade adopted a comprehensive declaration on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, as well as a second declaration underscoring our cooperation as a regional body. The former declaration identifies a number of good practices, also reflected in the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, presented by the Secretary-General in December 2015. The Plan of Action was welcomed by the German OSCE chairmanship and by the OSCE Secretary-General. We believe it can play a critical role in galvanizing the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular pillar I. The OSCE particularly welcomes the emphasis that the Plan places on enhancing efforts at the regional level.

Turning to our key supporting activities since the 2014 review, preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism has remained a strategic priority for the OSCE over the past two years. In the area of awareness-raising and political will, we have pursued our decade-old efforts to raise awareness and facilitate an exchange of good practices on countering incitement to terrorism and countering terrorist radicalization, while upholding human rights and the rule of law.

The OSCE chairmanships in 2015 and 2016, of Serbia and Germany, respectively, convened OSCE-wide conferences at the level of national counter-terrorism coordinators, focused on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. We are also working hard to strengthen our engagement and collaboration with the United Nations, other regional organizations, OSCE Partners for Cooperation and many others. For example, the OSCE drafted the good practices document on women and countering violent extremism, which was adopted by the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum in September 2015 and recognized in Security Council resolution 2242 (2015).

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department is working jointly with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media regarding counter-terrorism policies and media freedom and responsibilities. We held an initial workshop in Bucharest in October 2015, and we will follow up in Sarajevo in September, with a focus on preventing and countering online violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

Parallel to those discussions, we are developing an OSCE e-learning module on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, with the support of international experts, including those from the United Nations.

With regard to capacity-building, the OSCE is assisting several of its participating States to develop and implement comprehensive national strategies and action plans to counter violent extremism and terrorism. The development of such plans is one of the key recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report (A/70/826) on the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We are also launching a new initiative called Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism to build capacity at the grass-roots level. The aim is to empower local civil-society leaders, including women and youth, to speak up and mobilize their communities against violent extremism. Recently, we organized several innovative training activities, including social media training for youth on countering violent extremist narratives and table-top exercises to promote inter-agency coordination. We are also developing a training programme for police officers on the role of community policing in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. The training is based on a joint guidebook of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

All those activities are contributing to our communications campaign, OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism. The campaign was kick-started last year and seeks to leverage the potential of social media to engage and rally youth and civil society in support of the global consensus against violent extremism. We have achieved an unprecedented outreach of 9 million people in less than a year.

Preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters is highlighted in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It points to three areas where more efforts are required: first, strengthening border-control capacity; secondly, enhancing the use of advance passenger information; and, thirdly, increasing the use of INTERPOL databases. The OSCE travel document security programme focuses specifically on those work streams in order to implement Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).

With regard to strengthening border control, we see that, although the use of technology at borders has increased, the importance of having border officers with the ability to detect foreign terrorist fighters has also increased. Therefore, we have organized a series of national trainings on the latest forgery techniques in passports, and we are developing a mobile training team to support States in identifying foreign terrorist fighters. We also have a dedicated Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, which holds both monthly and annual staff courses for border guards.

On enhancing the use of advance passanger information, the OSCE is a partner in the global project led by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to raise awareness on the issue. Next month, the OSCE will co-host in Vienna the third regional workshop. In addition, we have been consistently briefing our 57 participating States on the requirement that airlines provide States with such data, in accordance with resolution 2178 (2014). The German OSCE chairmanship is currently negotiating a politically binding commitment that would call on States to implement the advance passanger information exchange programmes within the existing internationally agreed standards to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. Finally, we are working on capacity-building in order to support and assist States in the establishment of advance passanger information systems, in cooperation with the relevant international organizations.

On icreasing the use of INTERPOL databases, the OSCE had previously adopted by consensus decisions on the use of INTERPOL databases. The challenge, as highlighted by the Secretary-General, is to increase the use of those databases. Therefore, as part of the decision to be negotiated on advance passanger information, we are making a push to increase the political will for establishing the automated cross-checking of data against INTERPOL databases. On the capacity-building front, the OSCE is working with INTERPOL to increase access at border control points to INTERPOL databases.

In summary, the OSCE is a valuable partner to effectively prevent violent extremism and to counter terrorism. On implementation, our existing capacity-building projects to counter violent extremism and to enhance traveller identification at the border make us well placed to partner with international organizations in supporting States. On awareness-raising, we use a combination of conferences, targeted

workshops, online campaigning and focal-point networks to raise awareness of the commitments in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and how States can implement them. On political will, the OSCE increases standards and norms through the adoption of politically binding decisions by consensus among the 57 participating States.

We would like to offer three points about the OSCE collaboration with the United Nations.

First, United Nations entities, coordinated through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, should fully embrace regional organizations such as the OSCE at the beginning of the planning process whenever possible. Structurally, the OSCE has programme managers dedicated to all aspects of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which allow our joint efforts to be more sustainable and effective.

Secondly, our activities require a mechanism that allows funding to be shared between organizational structures. This allows much-needed grant money for a partner organization to leverage regional capacity when the grant terms reinforce joint activities through subgrants.

Thirdly, our aim for two years from now, during the sixth biennial review of the Strategy, should be even more confidence-building and efficiency in transforming the number of positive words expressed today and the days before into sustainable actions. That would allow us to unlock the human resources needed for the countries that are most often the beneficiaries of workshops, training and other events. Otherwise, we would not have matched development goals with sustainable counter-terrorism actions.

In conclusion, the OSCE stands ready to remain a substantive contributor in generating political will, in raising awareness and in capacity-building while implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the area of the OSCE.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): We have thus heard the last speaker in the debate on this item for this meeting.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 117?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 15 *(continued)*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution (A/70/L.49/Rev.1)

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform members that the consideration of draft resolution A/70/L.49/Rev.1, entitled "Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016-2025", will be held at a later date to be announced.

Agenda item 66 *(continued)*

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Draft resolution (A/70/L.50/Rev.1)

The Acting President *(spoke in Spanish)*: Members will recall that the General Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 66 and its sub-items (a) and (b) and agenda item 14, at its 34th and 35th plenary meetings, held on 16 October 2015.

I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand to introduce draft resolution A/70/L.50/Rev.1.

Mrs. Auareechit (Thailand): On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/70/L.50/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

This new draft resolution recognizes that there has been notable progress in achieving durable peace on the continent. However, in order to achieve a conflict-free Africa, the draft resolution calls for enhancing national and regional initiatives with international support to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner.

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank our coordinator from Rwanda, the facilitator from the Sudan and all partners involved in the negotiation of this text. We hope that the General Assembly will adopt this draft resolution by consensus.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.50/Rev. 1, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in document A/70/L.50/Rev.1, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.50/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/70/L.50/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 70/292).

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 66?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 120 *(continued)*

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee (A/70/518/Add.1)

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Second Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 120.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.112

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

112th plenary meeting
Monday, 25 July 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Terrorist attacks

The President: I wish to express my continued sorrow and anger about the recent spate of terror attacks and mass murders that have taken place around the world. I offer my deepest condolences and compassion to the victims and the relatives of those affected by these extremely cruel acts. These kinds of attacks have no place in a civilized global community and we must, through increased international cooperation, do everything we can to prevent them from happening in the future.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: Members will recall that, at its 39th plenary meeting, on 26 October 2015, the General Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 12. In order for the General Assembly to consider agenda item 12, it will be necessary to reopen its consideration. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of agenda item 12?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Sport for development and peace: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

Solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly (A/70/983)

The President: I shall now read out the solemn appeal contained in document A/70/983:

"The ancient Greek tradition of the *ekecheiria*, or 'Olympic Truce', born in the eighth century B.C., serves as a hallowed principle of the Olympic Games. In 1992, the International Olympic Committee renewed this tradition by calling upon all nations to observe the Truce.

"Through its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, the General Assembly urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce from the seventh day before the opening to the seventh day following the closing of each Olympic Games. This appeal was renewed in the Millennium Declaration.

"In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, our leaders emphasized that 'sports can foster peace and development', and encouraged the General Assembly to foster a dialogue and agreed proposals for a plan of action on sport and development.

"On 3 November 2005, the General Assembly held a plenary debate on the agenda item 'Sport for peace and development', and also adopted, with universal support, resolution 60/8, entitled

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'Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal', deciding to consider this item every two years in advance of each Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

"The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges sport as an important enabler of sustainable development, recognizing the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions that it makes to the Sustainable Development Goals, including the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities, as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.

"To this end, on 26 October 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/4. In that resolution, the Assembly urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce individually and collectively, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, throughout the period from the seventh day before the start of the XXXI Olympic Summer Games until the seventh day following the end of the XV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"The Olympic movement aspires to contribute to a peaceful future for all humankind through the educational value of sport, in particular youth. The Games will bring together athletes from all parts of the world in the greatest of international sports events as a means to promote peace, mutual understanding and goodwill among nations and peoples — goals that are also part of the founding values of the United Nations. For the first time ever, a team of refugees will participate under the Olympic flag in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, acting as a powerful symbol of inclusion and our shared humanity.

"As an expression of these common objectives, the International Olympic Committee has decided to fly the United Nations flag at Olympic Park. The United Nations system and the International Olympic Committee have strengthened their mutual cooperation and support through joint endeavours in such fields as human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development.

"I welcome the leadership of Olympic and Paralympic athletes in promoting peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal, and the commitment made by various States Members of the United Nations to developing national and international programmes that promote peace and conflict resolution and the Olympic and Paralympic values through sport and through culture, education and sustainable development.

"As President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session, I solemnly appeal to all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and world levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce. Referring to the original tradition of the Olympic Truce practised in ancient times, as described in resolution 70/4, I also call upon all warring parties of current armed conflicts around the world to boldly agree to true mutual ceasefires for the duration of the Olympic Truce, thus providing an opportunity to settle disputes peacefully."

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 12?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 15 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution (A/70/L.49/Rev.1)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda items 15, 116 and 123 at its 52nd plenary meeting, on 13 November 2015. Members will also recall that, under agenda item 15, the Assembly adopted resolution 70/110 at its 82nd plenary meeting, on 23 December 2015. Members will further recall that the Assembly,

at its 90th plenary meeting, on 1 April 2016, adopted resolution 70/259 under this item.

I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, to introduce draft resolution A/70/L.49/Rev.1.

Mrs. Aueareechit (Thailand): On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025)", contained in document A/70/L.49/Rev.1.

Africa's average share of new factories in gross domestic product has remained about 10 per cent since the late 1970s. The slow pace of Africa's industrialization is responsible for the region's low performance in translating growth into good jobs and poverty reduction. Based on an assessment of the situation, the General Assembly adopted the first and second Industrial Development Decades for Africa in support of Africa's efforts to overcome the challenges of industrialization. Unfortunately, limited progress was made owing to a lack of resources, capacities and geostrategic reasons.

The time has come to invest in inclusive and sustainable industrialization as an engine for growth and provide strategic leverage to support African countries through the adoption of the third Industrial Development Decade for Africa for the year 2016 to 2025. With the present draft resolution, we have the opportunity to address industrial development challenges in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), in particular Goal 9, and open the door to enhanced international and regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation as well as assistance from international institutions, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to fully support the implementation of this Third Decade and assist African countries in promoting inclusive, sustainable industrial development.

In closing, I would like to thank our coordinator from Chad, facilitator from Morocco and all partners involved in the negotiation of the draft text. We hope that the General Assembly will adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/70/L.49/Rev.1, entitled "Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025)".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/70/L.49/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 70/293).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 15.

Agenda item 23 (*continued*)

Groups of countries in special situations

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Draft resolution (A/70/L.56)

The President: The General Assembly will now take action on the draft resolution entitled "Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020", issued as document A/70/L.56.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I would like to make a statement in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In paragraph 120 of draft resolution A/70/L.56, the Heads of State and Government and high representatives participating in the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 state that they encourage the General Assembly to consider holding, in 2021, the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Pursuant to this provision, it is understood that all issues related to the meetings comprising the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2021, including the date, format, organization and scope of the Conference, have yet to be determined. Accordingly, in the absence of modalities for the meeting, it is not possible at the present time to estimate the potential cost implications of the requirements of the meetings and of documentation.

Once the modalities, format and organization of the meeting are decided, the Secretary-General will submit the relevant costs of such requirements in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Furthermore, the date of the meeting will have to be determined in consultation with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management. Accordingly, adoption of draft resolution A/70/L.56 does not give rise to any financial implications under the programme budget.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.56, entitled "Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution A/70/L.56 was adopted (resolution 70/294).

The President: I shall now give the floor to those delegations that wish to make statements following the adoption of the draft resolution.

Mr. Tatiyapermpoon (Thailand): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, please allow me to express our thanks to the President for convening this meeting of the General Assembly to endorse the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, which was adopted on 29 May in Antalya, Turkey. Our appreciation also goes to you, Mr. President, and to the Permanent Representative of Belgium as co-facilitators of the process for your leading role and tireless efforts, as well as to all the stakeholders involved in the process for their constructive engagement.

As we embark on our common journey towards sustainable development, the principles of universality and inclusiveness must not be forgotten, lest we all fail as a team. It is not only important for all of us to engage in a constructive manner to reach consensus on this political outcome, we must also expedite our provision of assistance to enhance the capacities of least developed countries (LDCs) in support of their efforts to achieve the priority areas set forth in the Istanbul Programme of Action and to implement the 2030 Agenda.

With strong support from all of us and with coordinated actions, we are confident that the LDCs will be able to overcome their structural weaknesses. Against that backdrop, we are hopeful that at least half, if not all, of the LDCs will meet the graduation criteria by 2020. The Group of 77 and China would like to once again express its solidarity with its LDC friends and its commitment to provide them with support in their efforts to implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, in order to make their development gains sustainable, inclusive and meaningful.

Mr. Sekiguchi (Japan): Japan welcomes the adoption of resolution 70/294. We would like also to express our sincere appreciation to the Permanent Missions of Belgium, Benin and Turkey for leading the process of the discussion on the Declaration.

After lengthy deliberations on the part of Member States, including the meeting held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May, the Political Declaration was adopted unanimously. During the process, Japan engaged constructively in the discussions, and we are pleased to see several items of importance to us incorporated into the Declaration, such as our policies to support the construction of quality infrastructure, resilience to natural disasters and disaster risk reduction.

Allow me now to briefly touch upon on our next step to support our least developed country (LDC) partners, namely, the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), to be held this August. Since Africa is home to 34 of the world's 48 LDCs, sustainable development in Africa is a major concern to Japan, and so we have been co-organizing TICAD every five years since 1993. This year, for the first time, the TICAD summit meeting will be held in Africa and hosted by Kenya, in Nairobi, on 27 and 28 August.

It was preceded by the preparatory ministerial meeting held in Banjul last month. This conference will be an important occasion to deepen our discussions and partnerships on critical issues such as the global health architecture, strengthening the response to public-health emergencies, violent extremism and commodity price volatility, while at the same time promoting Africa's own efforts to achieve Agenda 2063, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1).

Of course, the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action is vital to all LDCs, not only

to Africa, as noted in the ministerial declaration of the High-Level Political Forum adopted last week. I should like to emphasize that both the LDCs and their development partners must undertake more concerted development planning efforts to achieve the global goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as of the 2030 Agenda in order to leave no one behind.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): The least developed countries (LDCs) would like to express our thanks to all of the States Members of the United Nations for having adopted the very important resolution 70/294, endorsing the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. We would like to put on record our deep appreciation for the two co-facilitators of the process, the Permanent Representative Belgium and you yourself, Mr. President, for your skilled stewardship of the process. The LDCs would also like to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and gratitude to the peoples and the Government of Turkey for having generously hosted the midterm review.

Ms. Amadeo (United States of America): The United States welcomes the formal adoption by the General Assembly of the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (resolution 70/294). As we did in Antalya, we would like to begin by thanking the Government of Turkey for having hosted this successful event as well as praise the co-facilitators of the midterm review, Ambassadors Frankinet and Zinsou, for their leadership and for their hard work.

The Istanbul Programme of Action presents us with an ambitious and comprehensive framework for addressing the development challenges facing the least developed countries (LDCs). The United States remains committed to supporting the LDCs, as illustrated by the fact that more than one third of our total bilateral net disbursements of official development assistance between 2011 and 2014 has been to LDCs. In 2015, such assistance increased by 8 per cent, the largest increase of any bilateral donor.

But even more importantly, the United States convinced of the need to use official development assistance catalytically, to leverage new partnerships that are better placed to address the challenges of the LDCs. The United States is engaged in many such efforts, including Power Africa, the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. As these initiatives show, the United States has been and will continue to be a willing partner with LDCs in our joint efforts to realize the aspirations and objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1).

We reaffirmed these goals in Antalya, and we will continue to do both here in New York and in the least developed countries themselves.

Mr. Çevik (Turkey): Turkey welcomes the formal endorsement by the General Assembly today of the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (resolution 70/294).

As the host country, we would like to thank Member States for their constructive engagement and contributions to the successful conclusion of the midterm review. Our special thanks go also to the co-facilitators of the preparatory process, Ambassador Frankinet of Belgium and you yourself, Mr. President, for the leadership and cooperation shown.

The robust Political Declaration that we adopted in Antalya demonstrates our collective commitment to eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and building a better future for all. We should all do whatever is required to ensure that the Istanbul Programme of Action is fully implemented. The Political Declaration has paved the way for taking concrete action over the next five years to this effect.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Turkey will continue to fulfil its responsibilities and act in solidarity with the least developed countries.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Remond (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. We would first like to take the opportunity of this formal endorsement to thank the two co-facilitators of the entire midterm review process, Ambassadors Frankinet of Belgium and you yourself, Mr. President, for your wonderful work over the past month, for your vision and for guiding us towards what

we consider is a strong Political Declaration of which we can all be proud.

We would also like to thank the Republic of Turkey for warmly welcoming us in Antalya, and, of course, we want to thank the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for its support throughout the process and its tireless work for the least developed countries (LDCs), a group of countries to which the European Union attaches particular importance.

Throughout the negotiations leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), we have consistently argued that no one should be left behind and that in this process, special attention should be given the challenges faced by the LDCs. As part of our efforts to support developing countries in implementing the Agenda, we will continue to put the LDCs at the centre of our trade and development policy. We have come a long way since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and we would like to congratulate those LDCs that have made progress towards graduation. The European Union is determined to facilitate a smooth graduation process and is fully committed to the objective of enabling at least half of the LDCs to meet the graduation criteria by 2020.

Progress over the past five years has been slow, but we are confident that the Antalya midterm review, inspired by the landmark agreements reached in 2015, can help us get back on track. The Antalya Political Declaration (resolution 70/294) is a strong, ambitious and balanced text. It builds on the major breakthroughs of Agenda 2030 and thereby provides us with a robust road map for the coming years. The European Union looks forward to working with all partners to operationalize it and thereby advance towards meeting the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to thank Her Excellency Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, and His Excellency Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou, Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations, and the facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on all issues relating to the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of Istanbul for a job well done.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 23?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 66 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Draft resolution (A/70/L.48/Rev.1)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 66 and its sub-items (a) and (b) and agenda item 14 at its 34th and 35th plenary meetings, on 16 October 2015.

I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand to introduce draft resolution A/70/L.48/Rev.1.

Mr. Tatiyapermpoon (Thailand): On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", contained in document A/70/L.48/Rev.1.

African countries have taken concrete steps to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) through a socioeconomic renewal agenda in order to transform its development agenda. Despite efforts aimed at implementing NEPAD, Africa is still far from realizing the levels of support required under the Partnership. Tremendous challenges faced by the continent, particularly the fight against poverty, high youth unemployment and rising inequality, inter alia, still require continued global cooperation and partnership and an enabling national and international environment conducive to growth and development with multi-stakeholder participation.

As we are all committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) without leaving anyone behind, it is vital that we pay particular attention to the special needs of Africa and to the importance of implementing commitments made to African countries. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, we would like to express our gratitude to

the facilitators, the coordinator and all those partners involved in the negotiation of the draft text. We hope that the General Assembly will adopt it by consensus.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.48/Rev.1, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of A/70/L.48/Rev.1: Georgia and Turkey.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.48/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/70/L.48/Rev.1 was aopted (resolution 70/295).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Garcia Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Argentina welcomes the adoption of resolution 70/295, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support". We support that strategy aimed at resolving the major challenges currently facing the African continent, such as the need for African countries to embark both individually and collectively on the path to growth and sustainable development and to avoid their ongoing marginalization from the process of globalization and from fully enjoying the benefits of the global economy.

While we recognize that each country faces specific challenges in achieving sustainable development, we are also aware that it is necessary to highlight the specific problems that confront the most vulnerable countries. For that reason, we showed the greatest flexibility in the course of the negotiations of this text on and for Africa, working within the Group of 77 and China with a strong feeling of cooperation and solidarity with our African brothers.

We wish to point out, however, that Argentina firmly believes in the full validity of what our countries agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. In that regard, my country wishes to underscore that in the Paris Agreement the vulnerability associated with adapting to climate change falls on the shoulders of developing countries, without mentioning any group of countries in particular. There is also no preference accorded to any particualr group when it comes to the means for implementing climate-change efforts; instead, the Paris Agreement reiterates what was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in terms of what developed countries provide to developing countries.

Finally, we believe that it is necessary to recall that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognized the importance that development and the transfer and dissemination of ecologically sound technology to developing countries should be carried out in advantageous, favourable and preferential conditions according to mutually agreed arrangements.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 66 and of agenda item 66 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 175 (*continued*)

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

Note by the Secretary-General (A/70/976)

Draft resolution (A/70/L.57)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.57, entitled "Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution A/70/L.57 was adopted (resolution 70/296).

The President: I now call on representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Ms. Bajaña (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to speak with regard to paragraphs 1, 41, 101 and 104 to the annex contained in resolution 70/296, which was submitted under sub-item (a) of

agenda item 23 (a), and with regard to paragraph 50 of resolution 70/295, concerning the Paris Agreement, submitted under sub-item (a) of agenda item 66.

Nicaragua expresses reservations with regard to the content of those paragraphs because it is not, nor will become, a State party to the Paris Agreement. In order to achieve consensus and show great flexibility and full solidarity with the least developed countries and our African brothers and sisters, our delegation did not object to the adoption of those resolutions, nor did it ask for a separate vote on those paragraphs. However, while we wish to affirm that we do not object to such a reference in the resolution, that exception should at no time become a precedent and such language should not be imposed on us in future draft resolutions, declarations and documents.

Once again, my delegation reiterates for clarity's sake that this is situation is exclusively a reflection of our solidarity with the least developed countries, our African brother States and small island States. We request that this statement be reflected in the official records under the relevant agenda items.

Ms. Amadeo (United States of America): On 30 June, 165 Governments, including my own, as member States of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) came to consensus in Geneva to recommend that IOM enter into a relationship agreement with the United Nations. The United States fully supports the draft relationship agreement and welcomes the adoption of resolution 70/296, which approved it. We are in an era of unprecedented human mobility. Migration brings greater benefits to States of origin and destination. Migrants bring needed skills to destination countries, provide billions of dollars in remittances to help those at home and enrich the cultures of the societies that they join. Migration also brings challenges, however, as when it is not a choice but a necessity for those forced from their homes by conflict, famine, extreme human-rights abuses and serious natural disasters.

The IOM and the United Nations should be commended for the work that they have done together over the years to address those migration challenges, but additional coordination is needed and welcomed. We, the international community, need to adjust our structures to meet the new challenges and demands and improve the global response to vulnerable migrants, who most need assistance. As the sole international organization with an exclusive migration mandate, the IOM has 65 years of experience in helping Governments manage migration. The organization is a flexible and responsive partner in humanitarian and development contexts, and a vast repository of knowledge and expertise in migration issues. The IOM's status as a United Nations-related organization will help improve coordination and avoid duplication of migration-related activities and services related to migration. By bringing the IOM into a stronger relationship with the United Nations, the agreement establishes a solid foundation for strengthened coordination and collaboration to help us all better address the international migration challenges, while protecting the human rights of migrants.

As a nation of immigrants, the United States is committed to promoting safe, legal and orderly migration and looks forward to the IOM and the United Nations working closer together to further those goals.

Mr. Nayan (Philippines): The Philippines would like to thank the President for convening this plenary meeting, which allows Member States to exchange views on resolution 70/296, concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the international Organization for Migration IOM.

The Philippines recognizes migration as a multidimensional reality, and the IOM's impact and contribution in the area of migration as well. The IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and societies. As such, it strongly believes in the positive contribution of migrants and migration and is committed to the realization of the human rights of migrants. Hence, we fully support the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations and IOM in order to enhance the ability of both organizations to deliver on their respective mandates, in the interests of migrants and Member States. In that regard, the Philippines welcomes the adoption of a procedural resolution for the purpose of approving the draft agreement and its signing at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to address large movements of refugees and migrants, to be held on 19 September.

The President: As we know, the number of people on the move, including those who are fleeing conflict and persecution, is unprecedentedly high. Through the World Humanitarian Summit last May and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 19 September on large movements of refugees and

migrants, the international community is working to strengthen the global response and to address both immediate and long-term challenges associated with this situation. As the global lead organization on migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) plays an important role in the protecting the rights of migrants and assisting displaced people and migration-affected communities, including in the areas of resettlement and return.

In that context, the United Nations and IOM have a strong mutual interest in strengthening international relationships during these difficult times, and the General Assembly, by its resolution 70/263, of 27 April 2016, recognized this need and invited the Secretary-General to take steps to conclude an agreement to that end between the two organizations. I therefore take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary-General and the Director-General of IOM on the agreement that has just been approved by the General Assembly. It is an example of the kind of concrete action that is needed to face the current crisis, and as mentioned in the Secretary-General's note, the agreement will be signed at the meeting of the Assembly to be held on 19 September 2016.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 175?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 125 (*continued*)

Global health and foreign policy

Draft resolution (A/70/L.58)

The President: The General Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/70/L.58, entitled "Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt it?

Draft resolution A/70/L.58 was adopted (resolution 70/297).

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator of the consultations on the draft modalities resolution for the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, for a job very well done.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 125?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 124

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Draft resolution (A/70/L.59)

The President: The report of the Secretary-General under agenda item 124 has been circulated in document A/70/917.

I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh to introduce draft resolution A/70/L.59.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): It gives me immense pleasure to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, the draft resolution entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", contained in document A/70/L.59.

Bangladesh takes pride in presenting this text. We are pleased that it has been receiving the overwhelming support of Member States and that it has been adopted every time by consensus.

The agenda of interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established by resolution 65/123 as a stand-alone agenda item, in recognition of the unique role of parliaments as legislative and oversight bodies. The current President of the IPU, Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, is a distinguished parliamentarian of Bangladesh. That is why Bangladesh has taken the lead role in introducing this year's resolution at the United Nations.

The father of the nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, presented the Constitution of Bangladesh in 1972 immediately after our independence, which guarantees the democracy of our country. In line with its constitutional commitment, Bangladesh remains a strong advocate for promoting and protecting democracy and democratic values and principles not only at the national level but also at the international level. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment to democracy is embedded in her ardent belief that "only democracy and freedom can empower

people and ensure progress, development and social justice".

In Bangladesh, the National Parliament represents the solemn expression of the will of our people. Nothing that the United Nations decides can be implemented at the country level unless the Parliament and the parliamentarians are on board. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), of course, calls for a stronger engagement between the United Nations and the national parliaments, particularly through the IPU. There are important direct references to the oversight and legislative role of parliaments in Agenda 2030, which gives the United Nations and its Member States a clear mandate to work more closely with parliaments and parliamentarians.

This agenda item refers, of course, not only to national parliaments but also to the IPU. The IPU is the oldest multilateral organization, founded in 1889, with a membership of 170 parliaments and a constellation of 11 associate members.

We would like to welcome the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/917), which urges greater cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU. The United Nations works with parliaments and parliamentarians but can do so even more effectively by coordinating its work in-house and through closer cooperation with the IPU. The IPU is an observer at the United Nations and is in a unique position to ensure greater success in outcomes for "we the peoples" and for the most efficient use of Member States' resources. We also welcome the new cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the IPU, which builds on an existing one dated 1996.

We thank the Member States and their delegations for their active participation in the intense negotiation process this year. The draft provides for specific modes of interaction such as including parliamentarians in national delegations to United Nations conferences, holding a joint parliamentary hearing every year, getting United Nations country teams and parliaments to work more closely together, and so on.

In the draft resolution, the role of the IPU and parliaments in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is fully recognized. The draft welcomes the IPU contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; recognizes the tremendous work of the IPU on climate change, disaster risk and development finance; takes stock of new areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU, such as in the field of disarmament; acknowledges the association of the entire United Nations development system, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in particular, with the IPU. It also refers to the seminal work of the IPU and UNDP in developing a set of Common Principles for Support to Parliaments; it encourages the United Nations system to help facilitate greater South-South and triangular cooperation; and last but not least, it calls for Governments to facilitate the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

The draft resolution every year receives the support of a large number of Member States from all regions of the world. I am pleased to mention that this year around 70 countries are sponsoring this important draft. We express our sincere thanks and commendations to all the sponsors for their support and commitment and also to the general membership for its continued support.

I hope that, as in past years, we will be able to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.59 by consensus.

Mr. Houngbedji (Benin) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to thank the President of the General Assembly for having convened this meeting on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an issue of great importance for the effectiveness of the efforts of the international community. I should like also to express my great appreciation to the Secretary-General for having devoted a particularly important report (A/70/917) to the issue, which is extremely useful in shedding light on the extent of this cooperation.

I welcome the importance attached to the interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which enables us to mobilize a common commitment to strengthening the rule of law, democracy and development; allows us to work for the effectiveness of legislative power in Member States; and, in particular, makes it possible to strengthen their contribution to global governance. Its primary aim is to promote peace, stability and optimal conditions for the sustainable development of our societies.

From that standpoint, I wish to welcome the start in 2016 of the implementation of the major programmes adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The international

community is therefore well equipped to retake control of the development of the planet and of humankind and to decisively address the challenges that have been identified.

In so doing, it is important to mobilize all forces and all contributions so as to ensure effective action with a view to attaining the normative goals that we have set ourselves. The Sustainable Development Goals are the most elaborate and consensual reflection of this.

In particular, the National Assembly of Benin welcomes the numerous initiatives undertaken by the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to strengthen the capacity of national parliaments to tackle the issue of the promotion and enhancement of the role of women in our societies and to protect them through appropriate legislation. Benin participates in these efforts and, through me, urges their intensification.

Along the same lines, the importance attached to issues concerning the promotion of youth makes it a topic of common interest in the context of the interaction of parliaments with the United Nations. As testament to that, I need only cite the resolution calling for the participation of young people in the political process, adopted at the Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie at its forty-second session held in Antananarivo from 8 to 12 July. The resolution takes its lead from the Francophone Youth Strategy 2015-2022, the subject of which is women and youth as actors for peace and development. The Strategy was adopted by the Heads of State and Government of La Francophonie at the Dakar summit in 2014. It forms part of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the numerous activities undertaken by the Organization and its Member States to implement the Programme.

The remobilization of young people is essential in response to the real risks to which aimless and marginalized youth are exposed. Those risks include the radicalization and seduction of young people by the currents of violent religious extremism, which facilitate their recruitment by terrorist organizations whose misdeeds we know and deplore. Accordingly, the National Assembly of Benin intends to organize, with the support of friendly parliaments, an inter-African parliamentary conference for a strengthened and concerted effort on the issue of harmonizing counter-terrorism legislation in African countries. That initiative is essential, given the considerable rise of terrorism threat level in our countries. It is also justified by the differing levels of performance among African States, in particular with regard to integrating into our domestic legal system international instruments aimed at fighting terrorism and transnational crime to prevent terrorism.

Beyond those measures, the interaction between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations must contribute to honouring the commitment to leaving no one behind, made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Program (resolution 70/1). Situations that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable deserve special attention. Such cases include, among others, youth unemployment, the depletion of vital resources owing to the adverse effects of climate change, upheavals in the social fabric, the rising number of crises and the persistence of conflicts leading to mass migration.

Those are important areas for interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It is desirable that draft resolution A/70/L.59 on that interaction clearly explain the progress that has been achieved in those areas.

Mr. Suan (Myanmar): My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/917) on the interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). We appreciate the efforts undertaken by Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury, President of the IPU, and the Mission of Bangladesh, in submitting draft resolution A/70/L.59, entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", to the General Assembly at its seventieth session. I am delighted that my country could participate in this meeting as one of the sponsors of that significant draft resolution.

The report of the Secretary-General comprehensively presents the significance of deepening and broadening the interaction and partnership between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU in working towards to the most efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (resolution 70/1). In that regard, I welcome and reiterate our support for the outcomes of the successive World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015. Myanmar views the national parliaments as pivotal institutions of national legal frameworks. They contribute greatly to the aspirations of the people by delivering democracy and good governance.

In the light of that, Myanmar believes that strengthening the quality and resources of national parliaments is vital. We recognize the IPU's worldwide initiatives in strengthening the capacities of national parliaments, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). We are pleased to note that the UNDP's capacity enhancement supports one in three parliaments through some 70 current programmes. Thus, the UNDP's parliamentary strengthening programme is evidently an important part of its assistance in achieving inclusive political processes. It benefits many countries in building, promoting and maintaining democracy and good governance through capacity-building and technical assistance support for elections, constitutional processes, civic engagement and leadership quality training. It also focuses on sustainable development and human rights issues, including climate change, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and combating corruption.

The National Parliament of Myanmar, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, has aligned its functions in accordance with the IPU strategy of better parliaments, stronger democracies. With the support of the IPU, UNDP and donor countries, the capacity-building of the members and staff of the Myanmar Parliament has been consistently organized. The Parliament has regularly observed the International Day of Democracy since its inception in Myanmar in 2011 in order to raise the awareness of the people.

I would like to reaffirm my country's enthusiasm in engaging with the international community, enhancing the exchange of information and sharing of good practices. As such, I am pleased to inform representatives that the thirty-seventh General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, from 29 September to 3 October, on the theme of a vibrant ASEAN Inter-Parlementary Assembly for a progressive ASEAN Community.

By supporting previous resolutions inviting the IPU to participate as an observer in the work of the General Assembly, and, more importantly, those endorsing a more systematic engagement with the IPU, Myanmar is confident that the partnership between the United Nations, IPU and national parliaments will continue to be strengthened. Accordingly, the impact of agenda item 124 will continue to benefit the work of national parliaments. On that note, I wish to reaffirm Myanmar's support for the draft resolution on this agenda item.

Mr. Salimi (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): We welcome the latest report of the Secretary-General (A/70/917), which highlights the long and rich tradition of interaction and partnership between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Those links of cooperation among parliaments — the solemn incarnation of democracy within the political system — and the United Nations system, which seeks to disseminate democratic values, such as human rights and good governance throughout the world, are perfectly natural. The cooperation between parliaments and the United Nations allows us to understand the activities of the latter in different and vital areas of society, such as human rights, public health, gender equality and sustainable development. But it also provides us all with the possibility to make our voices heard in decision-making processes at the national, regional and global levels.

In another respect, and as spokesman for the populations that they represent, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other parliamentary organizations have helped the United Nations to take account of their views, as expressed through their parliaments as intermediaries. I cite as examples the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and the work of bodies such as the Human Rights Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on the Status of Women and the World Health Organization.

Besides reporting back to their people on the work of the United Nations in various areas, parliaments themselves adopt and implement United Nations programmes and strategies and integrate them into their national Government and peoples. Parliaments' role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) is one of the best examples of that process. By adopting and modifying laws and allocating budgets in order to reach the Agenda's stated objectives, parliaments verify that the executive branch has signed on to the decision and promote regional and international cooperation for its implementation.

The importance of the decisive role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, one of the world's most venerable multilateral organizations, in promoting the commitment of parliaments to the major projects and activities of the United Nations is growing day by day. With its 164 member national parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union works tirelessly to facilitate the participation of parliamentarians in the main United Nations mechanisms, particularly through

their joint annual hearings. In that connection, we fully endorse the recommendation of the Secretary-General to promote regular interaction between the senior officials of both organizations with a view to enhancing the coherence of their activities.

We also welcome the signing on Thursday of a new cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which seeks to further strengthen the ties between the two organizations through the ongoing consideration of new avenues for cooperation, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The Kingdom of Morocco, a constitutional monarchy, shares the same values and ideals as the Inter-Parliamentary Union in undertaking innovative and ongoing efforts to entrench the universal values of freedom, human rights and peace and to promote the culture of dialogue, openness and tolerance among civilizations and peoples. The cooperation between Morocco and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in ensuring that their ideals prevail is long-standing and will only increase with the passage of time.

The substantive draft resolution A/70/L.59 before us today is a testament to the mutually beneficial partnership between the United Nations and national parliaments and to the flourishing relationship between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. We are proud to have co-sponsored the draft resolution and encourage all Member State to join in the consensus.

Mr. Emiliou (Cyprus): The delegation of Cyprus welcomes the opportunity to offer some brief remarks on this important agenda item. I would also like to convey Cyprus' appreciation for the Secretary-General's report (A/70/917), which represents a comprehensive review of the specific actions and political interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Cyprus resolutely supports enhancing this interaction. In an international system based on the principles of the rule of law and democratic governance, stronger parliamentary participation on the global scale is needed so as to identify possible solutions to global problems and to work on implementing those solutions at the national level. Based on our own experience, we can testify that cooperation between the United Nations, the IPU and national parliaments also contributes to improving the role of the latter in promoting the rule of law and bringing national legislation in line with international commitments.

Cyprus has co-sponsored draft resolution A/70/L.59 as a sign of its recognition of the strong relations between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU. We hope that it will be adopted by consensus and that it will make a concrete contribution to further strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU.

Mrs. Nguyen (Viet Nam): I would like to express our appreciation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for its efforts to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations. We thank the delegation of Bangladesh for introducing and facilitating draft resolution A/70/L.59, entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", which Viet Nam co-sponsors and strongly supports.

The IPU was created in 1889 in a quest for peace and democracy. Since then, the organization has played an increasingly important role in the international arena, provided a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations, and helped shape parliamentary input to major United Nations processes, making active contributions to the maintenance of peace, stability, security, development and the promotion of human rights.

As we have embarked on the implementation of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), Viet Nam joins other countries in encouraging the continued active involvement of the IPU and national parliaments in mobilizing parliamentary action in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We wish to see strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, financing for development, disaster risk reduction, climate change, international law, human rights, democracy, good governance and dialogue among civilizations.

Viet Nam became a member of IPU in 1979. As an active, constructive and responsible member of the IPU for nearly four decades, the National Assembly of Viet Nam has been working closely with the IPU to fulfil the Union's aspirations, principles and objectives, and has continuously expanded friendly relations with parliaments and peoples around the world. Viet Nam was very proud to successfully host the 132nd IPU

General Assembly in Hanoi in March 2015, under the theme "Parliament and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals beyond 2015".

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Viet Nam's commitment to promoting closer cooperation among national parliaments and bolstering interaction between the United Nations and the IPU with a view to achieving our common global objectives and building the future we want.

Mr. León Ramírez (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are entirely convinced that the terms of the agreement with which we are familiar and which was the product of negotiations are crucial in guiding the important relationship between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). That is because we understand that as the world evolves, political relationships become increasingly complex.

I am among those who believe that the relationship between the United Nations and the IPU is important not only from a declarative point of view, but also in everything linked to the implementation of the declarations we issue at the United Nations, as well as the agreements of the IPU. Why do I say so? I say so because, among the many subjects we address, that which encourages me a great deal is the question of climate change. How can we ensure that progress in that area? Even more to the point, when will the day come when we can say that these norms are mandatory?

We know it is a difficult subject, but I believe that humankind's progress obliges us to take an approach along those lines. That is why, on behalf of the delegation of Chile and of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, which I have honour of presiding over in the IPU, we welcome this agreement and think it will be very important for the future of the relationship between the IPU and the United Nations.

The President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, I call on Mr. Saber Chowdhury, President of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Mr. Chowdhury (Inter-Parliamentary Union): I am pleased that we have fellow parliamentarians among us. It is a distinct honour and pleasure for me, as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world's organization of national parliaments, to address the General Assembly today on the very important agenda item of interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

At the outset, let me pay tribute to the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, a distinguished parliamentarian and former Speaker of the Danish Parliament, for his vision, his energy, his steadfast support and his passion for stronger engagement between the United Nations and the global parliamentary community. I should also add — and I think it is not just a coincidence — that there are two men who have presided over the two most important agreements at the United Nations over the past years — the Millennium Declaration of 2000, which for the first time formally acknowledged the need for cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments through the IPU, and more recently, the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) adopted in 2015. I refer to Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab of Namibia, who was a Foreign Minister, a former Speaker and a former President of the IPU, and former President of the General Assembly, and Mr. Lykketoft of Denmark. They are prominent parliamentarians and very active IPU members.

I am also delighted that we have among us, as I acknowledged at the beginning, speakers and honourable members of parliament who have in fact been here as members of the official delegations of their countries. This is a sight that we encourage and that we would like to see more of in the future, because I think that this is really what the cooperation is all about — bringing a parliamentary component and dimension to the work of the United Nations.

The Assembly has before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/917), which provides an excellent overview of the comprehensive engagement and the growing and evolving relationship between the United Nations system and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as between the United Nations and national parliaments — including through various regional and other parliamentary organizations, in a wide variety of areas and fields ranging from peace and security, to democracy and human rights, to climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. I am sure members will join me in acknowledging the richness of this report, which attests to the breadth and scope of our growing cooperation and relationship.

The Assembly does not need me to tell it that the world today is faced with multiple challenges, unprecedented in their complexity and gravity. In many parts of the world, the rule of law and our basic rights and fundamental freedoms are under assault. Inequality and social injustice are on the rise. In the wake of massive humanitarian and political crises and the difficulties in managing the waves of migration that follow, populism and xenophobia are once again rearing their ugly heads.

In the face of all this, the United Nations stands as the critical cornerstone of multilateralism, solidarity and cooperation among all nations. The IPU shares the objectives of the United Nations. It brings the perspective of parliamentarians as the direct voices of "we the peoples" and thereby complements and brings added value to the work of the United Nations. We are hence deeply committed to working with parliaments and parliamentarians around the world to promote peace and security, better understanding and cooperation, and a world free from want and free from fear for all citizens.

Much has transpired since the last debate on this General Assembly agenda item two years ago (see A/68/PV.86). The year 2015 brought major international processes promoted and initiated at the United Nations and those include the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Declaration on disaster risk reduction and the historic agreement on climate change agreed in Paris. Throughout the process leading up to these decisions, the IPU has been working to raise awareness and engage the global parliamentary community, helping to mobilize parliamentary action and support in shaping and following up on these major international commitments. We must remember that commitments are only as good as the extent to which they are implemented and that is where we, as parliamentarians, and the global parliamentary community bring huge value.

When it comes to the three United Nations processes, in addition to trying to encourage national ownership, we are also trying to make parliaments see the connection and connect the dots between the Sustainable Development Goals, disaster risk reduction and climate change. They mutually reinforce each other and we have to see them as part of one holistic agenda. We must also remember that the agreements tell us where we want to be in 15 years time and they are very aspirational — they have to be — but they do not actually tell us how we get there. Therefore, devising our own national plans in trying to find out how we move from A to B becomes of critical importance. That is something that the countries themselves, in their national parliaments, will have to try to address.

At the parliamentary level, we also talk about the five Ps. I know that in the cooperation agreement that has just been signed between the IPU and the Secretary-General, we talk about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development transforming our world. That is essential because what brings the IPU and the United Nations together is a critical central focus on people and their welfare. So, the centrality of people is something that brings us together. We are natural partners.

When we talk about the interest of the people, that is where the other four Ps come in. We talk about prosperity, which is the second P. To ensure prosperity, we have to make sure there is peace. Peace is not simply the absence of war. Peace is an environment that allows us to realize our potential as human beings. It is about social justice. It is about dignity. That is the third P — peace. The first three Ps are, in short, people, prosperity" and peace. Then, of course, we come to living within the planetary boundaries. If our current patterns of consumption continue, we are going to require at least three planets Earth to meet our needs. We therefore are going to have live within the bounds of what the planet can provide. That is the fourth P. The final P, which is really what this agenda item is all about, is about partnerships — strategic, collaborative, across-the-system partnerships, which is the piece where we, as parliaments and the IPU, seek to cooperate with the United Nations system. These are the five Ps that bring us together.

In our own National Assemblies, we have examined the main expectations that parliaments have for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the critical modalities of turning words into action. Time and again, our members have underscored the need for democratic governance as an essential enabler of sustainable development and as a goal in itself. When we go back to the 2000 Millennium Declaration, governance was also mentioned, but it was more as an aspiration and did not form part of the Millennium Development Goals per se; it was just part of the political declaration. This time around, the difference is that, in Goal 16, we actually have a governance Goal. So governance is an enabler; it is also an end in itself.

This is our entry point into the whole development agenda. It was the focus of the Speakers of Parliament Conference, which was held here in this very Hall, when Speakers from around the world came, debated and gave their input regarding the United Nations system. The Declaration of the World Conference, the fourth held so far, submitted as a parliamentary contribution to the global talks on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) , stressed the awareness of and the need for strong linkages between democracy, peace and sustainable development in the service of the people.

As we engage with parliaments, we are trying to help them become fit for purpose. This is also a debate within the United Nations — how to make the United Nations and its system fit for purpose. We are having a similar debate within the parliamentary community, as to how we make ourselves fit for purpose. We are looking at Goal 16 — peace, justice, rule of law and accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels — as the natural entry point for us.

We have been encouraging parliaments around the world to look at the SDGs and take ownership for them and try to come up with their own responses. Already, we have arranged a number of regional seminars, starting with the one in Dhaka, where South Asian Speakers got together to look at tobacco control under the rubric of "Health for all". In April, we held a regional seminar in Bucharest for Central and Eastern Europe, which tackled education for sustainable development. Other regional seminars are in the pipeline. We are expecting to hold one in the second half of the year in Latin America through Parlatino and the Latin American Parliament in Panama and another in Africa in cooperation with the Parliament of Uganda. We also expect that the second *Global Parliamentary Report*, produced jointly with the United Nations Development Programme and expected to be issued towards the end of this year, will provide valuable insight on accountability and oversight, in particular as these relate critically to the implementation of the SDGs.

We have also expanded our work with parliaments to help bridge legislative gaps in meeting international commitments in a variety of areas — human rights, including a greater parliamentary involvement in the Universal Periodic Review conducted by the United Nations Human Rights Council, the elimination of discrimination against women, child and maternal health, discriminatory legislation as it relates to HIV-AIDS, climate change — including through the adoption of the Parliamentary Action Plan in support of the Paris Agreement — as well as in efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, which is unfortunately the sad reality of today.

Just a few weeks ago, following up on our work with parliaments in Africa to enhance implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), parliamentarians for the first time joined and contributed here in New York to the United Nations comprehensive review of international efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including into the hands of non-State actors. For many years, the IPU has been supporting international efforts to advance nuclear disarmament. We have produced tools for parliamentarians, adopted robust political resolutions and are now closely following and supporting the work of the United Nations Open-ended working group on nuclear disarmament.

The partnership between the United Nations and the IPU has grown and evolved considerably over the past 20 years, and I am pleased to note and report to the General Assembly that on 21 July, just a few days ago, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong signed a new and revised cooperation agreement between our two organizations. That agreement takes stock of the work and progress that have taken place since 1996, when the initial agreement was concluded. The agreement places the institutional relationship on a stronger footing and sets the course for even closer cooperation in the years ahead. Needless to say, I welcome this positive development in our relationship.

I also very much welcome draft resolution A/70/L.59, under consideration by the General Assembly today. It expresses strong support for interaction among the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU, and it identifies key areas of joint work and cooperation ahead. I am confident that it will provide a valuable framework for taking our strategic partnership even further for the good of our global community and the common good.

We have found in Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon an outstanding leader and a strong supporter of robust engagement with parliaments and the global parliamentary community. On behalf of the IPU, I wish to record our sincere thanks, appreciation and gratitude to him for his inspiring leadership.

I would also like to thank the Permanent Mission of my own country, Bangladesh, for guiding the consultations among States Members of the United Nations on the draft resolution. Its staff has done a sterling job, and I wish to compliment and commend them for it. I further wish to thank each and every one of the many official sponsors of the draft resolution — and I know we would have had a lot more if we had the time to do reach them. I also wish to thank the staff members who have worked tirelessly and diligently behind the scenes, both at the United Nations and the IPU, as well as colleagues from around the world, and everyone else who, in his or her own way — small or large — has tried to make a difference for the good of us all. I sincerely hope that at the end of today's debate, all delegations will support — and support strongly — the draft resolution and thus give us a renewed mandate to pursue our cooperation for the common good, helping to shape a better world for the people that we are privileged to serve and represent.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/70/L.59.

One representative has asked to speak in explanation of position before adoption. I remind him that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, we would like to express our gratitude to the delegation of Bangladesh for its efforts in preparing draft resolution A/70/L.59.

The development of cooperation among the United Nations, national parliaments and one of the oldest organizations of its kind, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), can enrich all the participants in this process and promote the progress of the ideas of peace and dialogue between States, better understanding and the importance of strengthening parliamentary institutions.

In paragraph 6 of the draft resolution to be adopted today, there is a reference to the convening last year of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in New York. Such meetings are among the most effective formats for cooperation. As noted in the document, the Fourth World Conference provided a high-level parliamentary contribution to the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. Unfortunately, the Russian delegation was deprived of an opportunity to participate in this Conference as it was unjustifiably impeded from doing so by the host country. This was far from the first occurrence of refusing access of a delegation to international events taking place at the United Nations in New York.

Mr. Zinsou, (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

In our view, this practice is a manifestation of a selective and discriminatory approach, and as such it needs to be addressed. During the course of the negotiations on the draft resolution, we proposed to complement the text with an expression of regret about the inability of some representatives to be granted access to participate in the conference. However, as a result of the position of one delegation, our amendment was not included in the final text. Nonetheless, mindful of the importance of this draft resolution in strengthening cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we decided to join the consensus that traditionally prevails on the discussion of this issue at the General Assembly.

In conclusion, we would like to express our hope that, in the future, Member State delegations will enjoy unimpeded access on a non-discriminatory basis to participate in similar events held at the United Nations.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.59, entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolutionm, in addition to those delegations listed in document A/70/L.59, the following countries have also become co-sponsors of the draft resolution: Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Benin, the Central African Republic, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Viet Nam and Zambia.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.59?

Draft resolution A/70/L.59 was adopted (resolution 70/298).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 124?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at noon.

United Nations A/70/PV.113

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

113th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 27 July 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 121 (*continued*)

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly considered agenda item 121 at its 43rd and 44th plenary meetings on 30 October 2015. Members will also recall that, pursuant to the General Assembly decision 69/560 of 14 September 2015, the Assembly continued intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary meetings during the current session.

In a letter dated 21 July 2016, I circulated language for an oral draft decision on this issue for consideration by Member States.

May I now therefore take it that the General Assembly,

Decides to reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly concerning the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council;

Also decides to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, as mandated by Assembly decisions 62/557 of 15 September 2008, 63/565B of 14 September 2009, 64/568 of 13 September 2010, 65/554 of 12 September 2011, 66/566 of 13 September 2012, 67/561 of 29 August 2013, 68/557 of 8 September 2014 and 69/560 of 14 September 2015, building on the informal meetings held during its seventieth session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, reflected in the text and its annex circulated on 31 July 2015, and using the elements of convergence circulated on 12 July 2016 to help to inform its future work, while welcoming the active engagement, initiatives and intensive efforts of the President of the General Assembly, and noting with appreciation the active role and concrete efforts of the Chair undertaken in a consultative manner with a view to an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council;

Decides to convene an open-ended working group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, if Member States so decide;

Decides to include, in the agenda of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, the item, entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council"?

The draft oral decision was adopted (decision 70/559).

The President: Before giving the floor to the speakers in explanation of position on the oral decision just adopted, I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

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Mr. Minah (Sierra Leone): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of African States, and in doing so let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your excellent stewardship of the General Assembly at its seventieth session. I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your unwavering commitment and dedication to the reform of the Security Council. The African Group remains steadfastly committed to a comprehensive and meaningful text-based reform of the Security Council. We also appreciate the efforts of the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations during this session and we wish her success in her new assignment.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all Member States for their flexibility, leading to a rollover decision adopted by consensus. I believe that is in the spirit of preserving unity and mutual trust among the membership moving forward with Security Council reform.

In view of our letter of 21 July 2016, Mr. President, which was a response to your letter of 12 July 2016, circulating elements of convergence on two of the five key issues of Security Council reform — namely, the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly and the size of an enlarged Council and the working methods of the Council — we conveyed to you that the elements paper, as presented, must include all five issues of Security Council reform in order for it to be a comprehensive record of the discussions of Member States. We took note of your understanding that the elements of convergence that emerged from the positions and proposals of Member States on those two issues were presented during the intergovernmental negotiations in the seventieth session.

However, this understanding, we have maintained, did not precisely reflect the true record of the intergovernmental meetings. While there was no absolute opposition to the two areas of convergence identified by the Chair, there was certainly an extensive consensus that the paper should include the positions and proposals of the Member States concerning the other three issues of Security Council reform. To that end, a document that addressed only two out of the five key issues of Security Council reform, we believe, can neither be a true basis for informing the future work of the intergovernmental negotiations, nor adequately uphold the momentum we all seek.

The African Group is, however, pleased that the positions and proposals made by Member States, as reflected in the framework document and as circulated by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, will be rolled over to the seventy-first session. Africa will continue to constructively engage with all Member States in mutual trust with a view to achieving equitable geographical representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, with expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, and thereby ensure a greater legitimacy of its decisions. It is only through such a reform that we can talk of a Security Council that is more representative, democratic, accountable, transparent, effective and efficient.

We look forward to a more constructive and forward-looking intergovernmental negotiating process during the seventy-first session and urge all Member States to work together towards moving the process to text-based negotiations in a manner that will promote unity of purpose in maintaining the values and ideals of the founding fathers of the United Nations — a United Nations fit for purpose and of continuing utility as a centre of global governance.

On a personal note, as I end my role of advocacy and coordination on behalf of the States members of the African Union, I wish to humbly thank all delegations and colleagues who, though their passion, commitment and principled advocacy, have certainly advanced the cause of Security Council reform. I also thank them for their words of advice and wisdom in helping me in carrying out my role.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): I have the honour to take the floor today on behalf of the Group of Four (G-4), consisting of India, Japan, Germany and my own country, Brazil.

I thank you, Sir, for convening this meeting today. The reform of the Security Council is one of the most pressing issues still pending on the agenda of the General Assembly. It is very important that Member States engage in real text-based negotiations if the exercise we are carrying out within the intergovernmental negotiations is to have any meaning.

I would like to express appreciation for the work carried out by the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, during this seventieth session of the General Assembly.

The elements of convergence on two of the five key issues pertaining to the process of the reform of the Security Council can be considered useful to the

extent that they identify some already known trends on the positions and proposals of Member States regarding the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly and the size and working methods of an enlarged Security Council. While not all elements contained in the paper reflect the positions of the G-4, we can see the merit in seeking to capture a sense of convergence while retaining our own positions.

We regret, however, that other important patterns in the remaining three clusters were not reflected as leading towards convergence. It is obvious to any observer that a growing majority of Member States supports expansion of the Security Council in both categories, yet we failed to register such an evident and quantifiable convergence in writing. Member States also argued that the issue of the underrepresentation of developing countries in the current format of the Security Council should be addressed. Such a suggestion was not captured either. We would have preferred to see elements that reflected the positions of participants in a more comprehensive manner.

After the substantial progress achieved during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, which led to the adoption by consensus of decision 69/560, there was high expectation that the time had arrived for us to move into concrete negotiations. It is unfortunate that the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations was not able to build up momentum with a view to reaching an agreement on such an important item on the agenda of the General Assembly.

As many countries, including some permanent members, have pointed out at the intergovernmental negotiations, the longer we postpone a decision on the reform of the Security Council, the greater will be the discredit brought upon the United Nations in its core function of promoting peace and security. Most of us have already understood that holding on to the status quo cannot be an option. If we are to seriously address the complex challenges to peace and security that affect the everyday lives of millions around the world, we can no longer go around in circles on Security Council reform. At a time when we face the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War and an increased number of civilian victims of armed conflicts worldwide, we need a strong multilateral system to foster peace and security at the core of the United Nations. What people expect from us is bold leadership and commitment to change.

The United Nations has demonstrated a capacity to rise to challenges in a variety of ways. One example of this is the recent adoption by Member States of the ambitious, forward-looking 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and the historic agreement on climate. Progress was also achieved on the human rights pillar of the United Nations system with the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review process. The global financial structure was also strengthened in the face of the 2008 crisis with the quota reform at the international financial institutions and the enlargement of the Group of Seven, which became the Group of 20. It is on peace and security that progress is lacking.

A special note of recognition is due for the initiatives that you, Mr. President, undertook to ensure a more inclusive and transparent selection process for the next Secretary-General. The unprecedented hearings with the candidates were important steps towards the democratization of the selection process and the overall enhancement of the credibility of the United Nations. The process of selecting candidates for the next Secretary-General brought with it a renewed sense that the United Nations can come to terms with the challenges posed by the current century. But this feeling needs to be replicated in the debates on Security Council reform. As former Secretary-General Kofi Annan once reminded us, United Nations reform will not be complete without the reform of the Security Council.

Eight years have elapsed since the launch of the process of intergovernmental negotiations, and yet it has still not been possible to launch a concrete text-negotiating exercise. This is not a sustainable state of affairs. Delegations committed to early reform, as we all should be, should engage more with each other to finally create, within a fixed time frame, a United Nations fit for purpose on peace and security matters.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group.

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership during the seventieth session of the General Assembly and for the transparent and inclusive manner in which you have discharge your duties. Similarly, we thank the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassador Lucas, for the transparent, collegial and inclusive manner in which she has performed her task. The constructive ambiance during the intergovernmental negotiations enabled all delegations

to engage in frank and substantive discussions on all key issues of reform.

The oral decision we have adopted today (decision 70/559) remains a technical rollover. The UfC supported the oral decision, as we firmly believe that its prime purpose is to pave the way for continuing discussions during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly on Security Council reform in the broadest and most consensual manner. Today, the membership has provided a mandate to continue the intergovernmental negotiating process in informal plenary meetings of the General Assembly, as mandated by all previous decisions of the General Assembly on this agenda item. The decision conforms with the following points.

First, the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform are a membership-driven process, based on the positions and proposals of all Member States submitted throughout this process. All sessions of the intergovernmental negotiations have made important contributions to the reform process and must be given due consideration when we resume our work.

Secondly, our collective goal in the intergovernmental negotiations, as mentioned in decision 62/557, is a comprehensive reform of the Security Council with a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States.

Thirdly, the elements of convergence on two key issues of reform set forth by the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations reflect her understanding of the positions and proposals of Member States. While Member States, including the UfC group, offered observations on this initiative, we note that no delegation rejected its substantive elements. It can therefore be useful in informing our future work as we strive for further progress. In that regard, the UfC will reiterate that identifying broad convergences among Member States, in particular on the principles and criteria of reform, exemplifies the consensual path needed to achieve concrete results. As to the key issues and areas where divergences persist, we call for flexibility and compromise to achieve convergence.

Finally, we note the reference to the document dated 31 July 2015, together with its annex. On this, the UfC position was conveyed in its statement of 14 September 2015.

The Uniting for Consensus group is ready to continue to engage constructively in future negotiations on the reform of the Security Council. We are convinced that flexibility and the ability to compromise on the part of all delegations can lead the General Assembly to consensual and sustainable reform of the Security Council. To that end, we assure the Assembly of our full cooperation.

We wish all the best to Ambassador Lucas in her future duties.

Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the L.69 group, a diverse group of 42 developing countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific that are united by the common cause of achieving lasting and comprehensive reform of the Security Council. We align ourselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of the Group of African States.

On behalf of the L.69 group, I thank you, Sir, for your leadership and guidance throughout the seventieth session. We also thank you for convening this plenary meeting and presenting the rollover oral decision 70/559, which has just been adopted by consensus. We would also like to convey our appreciation to the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassador Sylvie Lucas of Luxembourg, for her efforts to push the process forward. We are happy to note that the framework document and its annex, which were circulated by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, will remain the basis of the discussion at the intergovernmental negotiations in the next session of the General Assembly.

As you encouraged Member States early in this session, Sir, it is imperative to engage in real text-based negotiations on the basis of the framework document and its annex in the next session. We look forward to continuing to engage with all States Members of the United Nations in a constructive manner on the remaining tricky issues and achieve an early reform of the Security Council. We also hope to open the way for more concrete progress in the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

First of all, we would like to thank you, Sir, for your efforts in leading the General Assembly and for the attention you have given to one of the most important items on our agenda, namely, the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council. I would also like to thank Her Excellency Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, who did all she could to bring points of view of various Member States and groups of countries closer together in the negotiations.

The Arab Group congratulates you, Sir, on the adoption by consensus of oral decision 70/559. We reaffirm that the Group of Arab States would appreciate the widest possible acceptance of any measure taken in the context of these negotiations with a view to moving towards a just and equitable reform of the Security Council. We would also like to reaffirm the position of the Arab Group, which hopes to avoid discrediting the intergovernmental negotiations by adopting measures that do not represent a consensus among Member States.

After the consensus adoption today, the Arab Group would like to see this debate continue within the framework of the intergovernmental negotiations and the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, taking into account the results achieved in previous sessions. We naturally seek to contribute positively and effectively to future negotiations in order to achieve a consensus that would lead to a solution that embodies true and comprehensive reform of the Council.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

First, we welcome the consensus adoption of decision 70/559 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council. The decision is a useful reflection of the achievements made on this important issue during the seventieth session of the General Assembly. It also reflects the continuing need to build on the positions and proposals made by Member States set forth in the text and its annex dated 31 July 2015, which provided a solid foundation for our continuing work.

It is obvious that much more needs to be done to make this most important of international organizations equal to the times in which we live and adequate to the challenges of the future. From the CARICOM perspective, the reform of the Security Council is integral and critical to an effective multilateral system with the United Nations at its core. CARICOM takes this opportunity to thank you, Sir, for your commitment and leadership on this important issue during the current session. We also thank Her Excellency Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, for the guidance and leadership she provided as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations.

The progress made during the current session, though limited, by all accounts, is nonetheless important. CARICOM hopes that the 31 July text and its annex, along with the elements of convergence of 12 July, will serve as a firm foundation on which we will continue our efforts for the reform of the Security Council in the seventy-first session. In that regard, I would assure the Assembly that the States members of CARICOM remain strongly committed to the quest for early and comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

Like my colleague from Sierra Leone, I will also end on a personal note, as, in a few short days, I will leave the United Nations for a new assignment. I wish to express my thanks to you, Mr. President, and to the entire membership for the support extended to me during my tenure as Permanent Representative of Guyana.

Ms. Frankinet (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour of taking the floor on behalf of the Netherlands and the Kingdom of Belgium. Like others who have spoken before me, we welcome the consensus adoption of oral decision 70/559, on the reform of the Security Council. I congratulate you, Sir, on the way you have guided the Assembly on this matter.

The decision and the elements paper represent true progress — gradual but real. It is clear nonetheless that we still have a long way to go before we have achieved a substantive reform of the Security Council. Therefore, it is up to us, the States Members of the United Nations, to redouble our efforts and show sufficient flexibility to that end. For their part, Belgium and the Netherlands will continue to be actively involved in that process. I especially wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, who, as Chair, led the intergovermental negotiations in a balanced, efficient and transparent manner and carried out the impressive work that has been acknowledged by all.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The General Assembly has just adopted the simple and technical oral decision 70/559, to roll over the intergovernmental negotiating process on Security Council reform to the General Assembly at its next session. Pursuant to decision 62/557 and the consensus of the Member States, the intergovernmental negotiations should uphold the ownership and leadership of Member States and be based on the positions, proposals, suggestions and ideas of the entire membership. The intergovermental negotiating process has been pursued for the past seven years, and has been an integrated process. Over those seven years, all the constructive efforts of Member States have served as a foundation and created momentum to take forward consultations and galvanize consensus. This reality should be fully reflected in the intergovernmental negotiating process.

Since 2009, the intergovernmental negotiations have followed United Nations-led principle, but there have also been several missteps. At the current session, Member States have conducted candid and in-depth discussions on the five categories of issues concerning Security Council reform. The overall atmosphere has been positive, and the intergovernmental negotiations have been put back on the right track of ownership and leadership.

China welcomes the efforts of President Lykketoft and Ambassador Lucas, the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg and Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations. It is China's hope that the intergovermental negotiations will continue to uphold the leadership of Member States at the next session and that all sides shall continue to undertake extensive, patient and democratic consultations on the five categories of issues, meet each other half way, gradually foster conditions conducive to identifying a package of solutions, and finally reach the broadest possible consensus. In that regard, China stands ready to contribute alongside all stakeholders to moving forward Security Council reform, in conformity with the common interests of Member States and the long-term interests of the United Nations.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The General Assembly has just adopted oral decision 70/559, rolling over the consideration of the issue of Security Council reform to the seventy-first session. The consensus adoption of the decision has allowed us to avoid creating new dividing lines among the participants of the intergovernmental negotiating process. The course of negotiations on Security Council reform has shown us that we are still far from finding a universal formula for the enlargement of the Council.

Unfortunately, the situation has not changed at the current session of the General Assembly. It is obvious that, because of the great political significance of Security Council reform, it is necessary to continue to seek a package solution that would enjoy the support of a greater number of Member States than the formal mandatory two-thirds majority. Ideally, we would need a consensus. Such work must be carried out in a transparent and inclusive manner without creating artificial timelines, and taking into account the full gamut of positions of Member States. The decision that we adopted today speaks to exactly that.

In conclusion, we thank the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, Ms. Sylvie Lucas, and her entire delegation for the highly qualified and responsible manner in which they discharged their responsibility for coordinating intergovernmental negotiations at the current session. We wish Ambassador Lucas every success in her future endeavours.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I take this opportunity to make several remarks as the General Assembly prepares to conclude its review of the issue of reform of the Security Council at the seventieth session.

I wish first to thank you, Mr. President, for your trust and support throughout this session. It has been an honour to chair, on your behalf, the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. When you entrusted me with this mandate in October 2015, I understood the difficulty of the task. Today, I have an even better idea of that difficulty. My thanks also go to the Member States and the groups of Member States that participated constructively in our meetings and answered my entreaty by offering their views on the substance of Security Council reform and identifying the points of convergence within the positions of other Member States or groups of Member States.

On 30 October, I made a commitment to the General Assembly to do my best to move forward negotiations on Security Council reform. Our meetings this year have allowed us to discuss all key issues in connection with that reform, including categories of membership, the veto, regional representation, the size and working methods of an enlarged Security Council, and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly.

The statements made by Member States in our meetings and the consequent references to their positions, reflected in the text and annex circulated on 31 July 2015, have led to the emergence of elements of convergence on two of the five key aforementioned issues: the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, and the size and working methods of an enlarged Security Council. I am convinced that these elements of convergence, circulated by the President of the General Assembly on 12 July, will be useful for the follow-up of the negotiations, bearing in mind that Security Council reform can only be a comprehensive one that addresses the five key questions.

I have tried at this session to listen to all Member States. I have worked independently and impartially to promote an environment conducive to progress in the negotiations. Any progress we have been able to make towards Security Council reform — even if modestly — is due to the commitment and cooperation of all our colleagues and their teams.Much remains to be done to achieve Security Council reform. The stakes are high, but if Member States are committed and negotiate in good faith, reform is not impossible. Reform is possible, and it is more necessary than ever to the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 121?

It was so decided.

The President: Before adjourning, I wish to announce that this will be the last meeting of Mr. Ion Botnaru, Director of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Mr. Botnaru's contribution to the smooth running of meetings in the Assembly has been truly significant, and I should like the Assembly to give him a round of applause in appreciation. We wish him all the best.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.114

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

114th plenary meeting
Friday, 29 July 2016, 10:30 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Agenda items 15 and 116 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/70/L.60)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly considered agenda items 15 and 116 at its 4th plenary meeting, on 25 September 2015, and adopted resolution 70/1 under those items.

Members will also recall that the Assembly considered agenda items 15, 116 and 123 in a joint debate at its 52nd plenary meeting, on 13 November 2015. Members will recall that the Assembly considered agenda items 15 and 116 at its 108th plenary meeting, on 30 June, and adopted resolution 70/290 under those items.

Only last week, during the High-level Political Forum, we witnessed a series of examples of how Governments, civil society, the private sector, universities, the United Nations system and others are taking steps to get implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) off to the best possible start.

Draft resolution, A/70/L.60, which is before the Assembly today, is another one of those steps. While it is a small contribution as compared to the grand achievements of 2015, I believe it is a critical one. It comes on the back of the Secretary-General's report (A/70/684) on critical milestones presented in January of this year and includes a series of decisions that will help the follow-up and review processes at the global level, particularly in the High-level Political Forum, to be as effective and engaging as they possibly can.

I therefore wish to thank Her Excellency Ms. Lois Michele Young, Permanent Representative of Belize, and His Excellency Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark, and their teams for leading the informal consultations in such an inclusive and skilful manner. I also want to thank each and every representative who gave considerable time and effort to the negotiating process and who ultimately summoned the spirit of unity that led to last year's agreement.

As members know, however, those consultations were not without their complications. It is regrettable that technical discussions at times veered towards a renegotiation of issues that had been decided last September. It is my sincere hope that, as we move towards the seventy-first session, delegations will embrace a new mindset that sees the focus here in New York shift towards creating an environment that inspires action from all actors and implementation at all levels.

At the same time, I am aware that certain aspects of the draft text present challenges for some delegations.

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In that regard, allow me to remind representatives that resolution 70/1, together with other resolutions, provides the context for the current draft resolution. Through it, world leaders agreed to a universal agenda to be met for all nations, peoples and all segments of society. They decided that the Goals and targets be integrated and indivisible, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, the economic, social and environmental. They also addressed a wide-range of other issues including, in paragraph 35, the issue of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, and, in paragraph 74, the principles related to follow-up and review processes.

In the light of this, I trust that a spirit of consensus will prevail in the Assembly today. Such consensus will help preserve the universal ownership of the 2030 Agenda and, in this critical first year of implementation, help sustain global efforts to transform our world for the better — for the people and the planet alike.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/70/L.60.

Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of position before its adoption, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): In September 2015, all countries welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and we committed ourselves to implementing parts of it starting in 2016. Mexico made that commitment its own and acknowledged the fundamental principles of the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda, which, in paragraph 55, emphasize the integrated and indivisible character, the global nature and the universal implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. My delegation therefore wishes to refer to the content of paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/70/L.60, which we are considering in connection with the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, and express — as we have already on numerous occasions — that although we understand that paragraph 5 is necessary for some delegations, for purely practical reasons, Mexico believes that the paragraph can break with the principle of the indivisibility and integrity of the Agenda because it fragments the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals over a period of three years. Mexico is convinced that dividing up the follow-up and review of the Agenda is a bad methodology, as it gives de facto priority to the implementation of some Goals above others.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize the firm desire of my delegation to continue to work to ensure that the segmentation of the follow-up over three years of the Goals does not fragment the Agenda and ensure that the indivisibility and integrity of the Agenda be preserved. I would grateful if my statement were recorded in the record of this meeting.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.60, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt it?

Draft resolution A/70/L.60 was adopted (resolution 70/299).

The President: Before giving the floor to those wishing to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted, I would like to remind delegations that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Plasai (Thailand): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China.

At the outset, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on the consensus adoption of resolution 70/299, on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) at the global level. Without any doubt, the resolution underscores the shared vision and aspirations of all States Members with regard to the crucial path set forth to assess progress in the implementation of the ambitious global Agenda and ensure that its overall objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable development are duly achieved.

The 134 members of the G-77 and China attach high importance to the robust guidance on how the 2030 Agenda is to be followed up at the national, regional and global levels. We recall that, on 5 February, it was the Group of 77 and China that proposed the way forward to address the issue of coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level in a more structured and inclusive discussion in the form of a General Assembly resolution to be arrived at through an intergovernmental process.

With today's adoption, I wish to express the Group's deepest disappointment that one of the Group's most important historical principles with regard to countries and peoples under colonial and foreign occupation was omitted. We underscore that the resolution first and foremost must be read and implemented consistent with the 2030 Agenda, which starts from the premise that no one will be left behind. We further emphasize that because a full listing of all groupings of countries and peoples who faced specific challenges was not in the end accommodated in the resolution, that omission, in a way, betrays our leaders' commitment to leaving no one behind and the shared principles that they reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda.

The right to self-determination is a primordial right that anchors the United Nations. For the Group of 77 and China, it has been and continues to be a beacon of hope for all those who struggle under the weight of occupation. While the Group did not break its silence, it could not remain silent on an issue that has long united us and been an thread of solidarity for our Group. It was therefore deeply disappointing that even a benign reference to those rights and the very principles that uphold those rights, which the Group proposed as a way out of the impasse, was rejected. Indeed, it raises the question that if we cannot stand for what the United Nations promises in its very Charter, then what do we stand for?

It is therefore incumbent upon the Group to set forth its understanding of the interpretation of the resolution for the record, as follows: that there is no derogation from the commitments enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, especially from the shared principles as set forth in the Agenda; that while countries and peoples under colonial and foreign occupation are not expressly mentioned in the resolution, paragraph 35 of the 2030 Agenda, which refers to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continues to adversely affect their economic and social development, as well as their development, is nonetheless validated in the resolution's reaffirmation of the 2030 Agenda itself; and that the process of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, including through the High-level Political Forum, shall therefore be conducted by taking into account paragraph 35, among other relevant paragraphs relating to countries and peoples facing specific challenges.

The Group reiterates and reaffirms our strong position that in the implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, we must not forget the severe difficulties faced by peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation and strive to remove the obstacles to their full realization of the right to self-determination, which adversely affects their economic and social development and their ability to achieve and implement the Sustainable Development Goals, and to ensure that they will not be left behind.

Our members have demonstrated the utmost flexibility in agreeing to the introductory remarks of the President the General Assembly, so that the institutional arrangements for the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda and its related mechanisms set out in the resolution can be implemented. This, we believe, is to the shared benefit of all member States and States Members of the United Nations. However, we wish to caution that our flexibility cannot be used as a precedent or a pretext to adopt a new methodology of negotiation in any future intergovernmental process, especially as it relates to the issue at hand. Due consideration must be given in the negotiation process to the full realization of the self-determination of countries and peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is our legitimate hope that all member States and States Members of the United Nations will engage in all future negotiations with an open mind in order that no one is left behind.

Mr. Schaerlaekens (Belgium): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. We would like to thank you, Mr. President, and your team for having brought this important exercise to successful conclusion. We would like also to thank the co-facilitators, Ambassadors Young and Petersen, and their teams — I have the honour to sit next to one of them — for their tireless work in steering this process and bridging the divergences between the delegations that participated in the consultations.

The European Union and its member States have engaged in negotiations in good faith, showing a lot of flexibility in the common interest of reaching consensus. We regret, though, that this has not always been reciprocal. In particular, some of the developments in the last stages of consultations were not conducive to building trust, which is very unfortunate. As we have consistently argued, a strong follow-up and review framework is key to accelerating progress on the

implementation of the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), foster broad ownership and partnership, and promote accountability and inclusivity.

Today we have joined the consensus on resolution 70/299. We would like, however, to register our strong reservations on paragraph 9 as it currently stands. We are disappointed that the concerns we expressed on this paragraph during the last informal consultations were not addressed before the text was put on a silence procedure. However, we thank those partners who were willing to show flexibility on the question.

This paragraph, and, for that matter, the whole resolution cannot be interpreted as undermining in any way the modalities of the European Union's full participation in the High-level Political Forum, as specified in paragraph 10 of resolution 67/290. Paragraph 9 of the present resolution must be implemented consistently with operative paragraph 10 of resolution 67/290. The EU therefore retains the right to provide the feedback foreseen in paragraph 9. Moreover, the formulation used in this paragraph does not constitute a precedent in any way.

Concerning paragraph 4 and the reference to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 being reviewed annually, I would like to reiterate that for the EU and its member States, every single SDG is of equal importance, in line with the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Agenda. Moreover, we would like to recall that in the complex institutional architecture that was set up last summer, the financing for development forum is the place where means of implementation, including Goal 17, are to be reviewed on an annual basis.

We also regret that we were not able to act in this resolution to resolve the artificial division between the high-level sessions of the High-level Political Forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council itself. This duality adversely affects the credibility of this high-level week.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the full and effective participation of all stakeholders in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. We note that the Agenda itself is quite clear that regard. For the EU and its member States, the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda are still valid. They have not been modified by the present resolution.

We would kindly request that this statement be reflected in the records of today's meeting.

Mr. Al-Moumani (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Group of Arab States and to convey the Group's appreciation to all States that participated in the negotiations on resolution 70/299, which we have just adopted, on the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1).

I should like to thank in particular the members of the Group of 77 and China. We appreciate their efforts during the negotiations and their determination to take into account the concerns of Member States. The resolution represents an important milestone in the achievement of tangible progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which underscores issues critical to all, including sustainable development, the combat against poverty, and the creation of societies living in security.

The resolution reflects the will of Member States and their determination to implement the 2030 Agenda in an effective way at all levels. We sought to contribute to the consensus on the adoption of the resolution based on our conviction as regards certain important issues that require cooperation among all for their implementation. However, I should like to voice the disappointment of the Arab Group in the context of one of the fundamental principles that the 2030 Agenda underscores, especially in its paragraph 35, concerning the right of countries living under foreign occupation to self-determination. This is a right that we have underscored during meetings of the Main and subsidiary committees of the General Assembly and a principle that is directly linked to sustainable development and human rights.

I should like also to stress the fact that failing to mention the right to self-determination does not mean that we are not obliged to uphold it, for this is a procedural resolution on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which makes reference to this important principle.

I should like to reiterate our determination to closely monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and related procedures as regards the right to self-determination, so as to avoid double standards in the

application of the principles contained in the 2030 Agenda, so as to ensure that its implementation is holistic and achieved in all of its aspects.

Mr. Luque Márquez (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, we associate ourselves with the statement read out by the Permanent Representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I wish to express the gratitude of the delegation of Ecuador for your efforts, Mr. President, during the negotiation process on resolution 70/299, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level". We welcome its consensus adoption.

Nevertheless, I must say that Ecuador deeply regrets the fact that, owing to opposition on the part of a few States, paragraph 11 of the resolution omits a reference to countries and peoples under foreign occupation. The Declaration of the 2030 Agenda clearly highlights the fact that

> "[s]ustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security." (*resolution 70/1, para. 35*)

In the same paragraph, the Declaration also calls for the removal of

> "the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation",

for such a situation continues to adversely affect their economic and social development.

It is for this reason that, along with other countries facing special challenges — the least developed countries, the small island developing States and the landlocked countries — paragraph 11 of the resolution should have included the peoples and countries under foreign occupation, as proposed by the Group of 77 and China in already compromise wording. That is why Ecuador wishes to state for the record of this meeting that it is our interpretation that paragraph 11 of the resolution implicitly includes countries and peoples under colonial and foreign occupation.

I must say that my delegation is concerned about how the few countries that prevented the inclusion of wording referring to colonial and foreign occupation are systematically opposed to using this wording in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and in other United Nations organs and forums, including where such language has been in use for several decades. The promoting the self-determination of all peoples is one of the fundamental purposes defined in the Charter of the United Nations. Its concrete implementation is based on the liberation of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation. Therefore, the delegation of Ecuador will be opposed here, and in any other forum, that preferences for such clear and historic references be deleted.

Finally, I wish to point out that my delegation would have preferred the General Assembly to have met in its Hall — in the Hall of the General Assembly — particularly on a topic of special importance such as the one that brings us together this morning.

Ms. Leyva Regueira (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation wishes to express its full support for the statement delivered by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Today, resolution 70/299, on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), has finally been adopted at the global level. It is a document of paramount importance for developing countries and for developed countries alike. As reflected in the preamble of the 2030 Agenda, our countries pledged to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality. Resolution 70/299 as the result of intensive and productive rounds of consultations — an exercise for which we should certainly thank those delegations that did everything possible to maintain the constructive spirit of the process. I take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, and the co-facilitators for the work and efforts realized.

After adopting this document, and beyond this process, my delegation would like to make some comments on how negotiations are being conducted in different forums of the Organization, which we have witnessed in recent times. On that basis, allow me to express the displeasure of my delegation at the growing trend at the United Nations to favour negotiating processes that either ignore or attempt to impose criteria on Member States. The traditional methods of inclusive, participatory and transparent negotiations without imposition must once again prevail in these forums. The right of every State to have its proposals taken into account should not be overshadowed, much less constricted, by mechanisms or actors established

to conduct these processes, nor can we allow their ownership to be breached nor to interpret what Member States really mean to say.

The deadlines and time limits, far from constituting straitjackets, should indicate the full satisfaction of our expectations as Member States with full rights. We must not forget that the adoption of a document is not the end in itself. The commitments made in our resolutions will make a difference, so they must be made wisely and unhurriedly. Conflicts will never cease to exist; however, we must show full respect to dialogue and negotiations as the only way to find a solution to them.

If I may, I would like to conclude by recalling the burden of responsibility we bear and the commitment of our delegations to the right to development for all our peoples without exceptions.

Mr. Pinto Damiani (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to refer to resolution 70/299, entitled "Follow-up and the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level", which we have just adopted by consensus.

At the outset, we wish to reiterate our support of the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would like to point out certain aspects in our national capacity.

Our country joined the consensus on this resolution as a reflection of its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), which was conceived as a way of resolving existing socioeconomic problems while contributing to the continuation of life on the planet and the preservation of the human species. The Agenda is universal; it applies to everyone equally and has as its centre the human being, based on solidarity, justice, social inclusion, equity, the promotion of and respect for human rights and the participation of all citizens.

However, in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is necessary to guarantee that the concerns and sensitivities of all countries, in particular in the developing world, be incorporated in the decisions to be agreed. In that respect, we endorse the concern expressed by various delegations with regard to the procedure and non-inclusion of sensitive themes for developing countries in such a substantive document meant to follow up the 2030 Agenda, even when these proposals come from two thirds of the Member States. Therefore, we wish to emphasize, as set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that we insistently call for:

> "effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment." (*resolution 70/1, para. 35*)

Only by truly considering the views of everyone can we ensure that no one is left behind.

Ms. Bajaña (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

On the adoption of the important resolution 70/299, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level", my delegation wishes to express its deepest concern about the new trend in negotiating and drafting solutions, ministerial statements and other documents that are of paramount importance for the development of our people. Nicaragua regrets that the process used to reach consensus on the resolution was to block negotiations on the subject for months in order to corner the Group of 77 and China at the last minute and pressure it under the pretext of having running out of time to negotiate. These processes, without negotiating word choices and with supposed creative options such as the delivering of a general statement from the President of the General Assembly on sensitive and crucial topics affecting developing countries that were not included, are unsatisfactory for the States and peoples who live, in this case, under colonial and foreign occupation.

All States — be they large and powerful or small and developing, like us — enjoy the same rights at the United Nations. We have observed a trend within the United Nations of impositions set by the co-facilitators, which is a practice that does not in any way contribute to multilateralism. We reject that methodology, as that is not how the United Nations should work.

We do not want the new precedent to be characterized by the imposition of texts that have not been fully

negotiated, nor by the lack of consideration of the sovereign positions of States, particularly when those are the previously agreed-upon rules. Negotiating in good faith means reaching a consensus that reflects the interests of all Member States. We would like to remind the entire international community that we are here to promote the rights and development of our peoples, and that these types of impositions will not eradicate global poverty, much less allow for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The resolution adopted today does not consider the right of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation to sustainable development.

Finally, the fact that we have not objected to the adoption of the resolution does not imply that we agree with the procedures or with the pressure that led to its adoption, and in no way can we accept it as a precedent or methodology to be used in the future.

Ms. Miyano (Japan): On the occasion of the unanimous adoption of resolution 70/299, we would like to thank you, Mr. President, and your team, as well as the co-facilitators of the resolution, Ambassador Young and Ambassador Petersen, for their patient and dedicated work and for ensuring a transparent and inclusive process.

There was an unfortunate turn of events after general agreement was reached among Member States. Nevertheless, my delegation believes that we gathered here are capable of proceeding with the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) together and in unity. Japan joined consensus on the resolution based on the following understanding.

First, designating a set of goals to be reviewed in-depth each year should not lead to a narrow, so-called silo approach. The integrated nature of the whole Agenda and the interlinkages between goals are the major features of the agenda that are to be upheld.

Secondly, the duplication of effort between the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development should be kept at a minimum. The Forum on Financing for Development was one of the major outcomes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and is is a venue for following up the Addis Ababa Action Agenda itself, as all of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thirdly, we are of the firm view that nothing in this resolution changes what we agreed upon in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Let me conclude by emphasizing the urgency of our work. We are already eight months into the implementation stage, and 15 years is not that long. We should accelerate our work in both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in order to support its implementation. As the President rightly noted, we have no more time to spend on reopening or renegotiating what we already agreed to.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, at the outset, to express our thanks and appreciation to you, Sir, for having convened this meeting.

My delegation welcomes the adoption of resolution 70/299, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level".

I would like to recall resolution 67/290; resolution 69/313, on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development; and resolution 70/1, which crowned the international consensus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These resolutions confirm the global commitment to eliminating poverty and hunger and fully reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their three dimensions within the next 15 years.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements delivered by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

We would like to stress the complementary nature of all objectives, which must be approached in a comprehensive and integrated manner. We also stress the need for a comprehensive, transparent, effective and robust mechanism for follow-up and review that will track the global implementation of the SDGs and assist Member States at the national and regional levels to achieve the best results possible by exchanging information and lessons learned, mobilizing support and developing best practices for seizing opportunities and tackling challenges.

My delegation would like to stress the voluntary nature of the follow-up and review system at the national level. Countries must be given total liberty to decide their priorities and work on pursuing development

in accordance with their national legislation, ethical values, social and cultural traditions and internationally recognized instruments. We would also like to express the importance of regional cooperation. All sectors of society — Government, public and private sectors — must cooperate in reaching objectives and following up with the results.

The Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses that no one should be left behind. We want to underscore the need to attach great importance to the challenges faced by countries in special circumstances, particularly least developed countries, African States, countries emerging from conflict and small island developing States. We add to the list countries under colonial and foreign occupation and their people's right to self-determination and freedom, a category that was left out of the resolution without any justification, although it was established in paragraph 35 of the Agenda. We would like to stress that the right to self-determination is one of the fundamental rights set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations and that it is a right that cannot be called into question.

My delegation would also like to recall paragraph 30 of the Agenda, which strongly urges States to refrain from applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures and coercive measures on developing countries. Such measures undoubtedly run counter to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, obstruct efforts to eliminate poverty and ultimately end up affecting the poorest sectors of the population in my country and other countries affected by such measures. They also run counter to the principle of leaving no one behind; unfortunately, such measures deliberately leave some people behind instead.

The Agenda for Sustainable Development has placed people at the centre of all sustainable development activities. Human dignity and social justice will not be realized as long as the inequality in our world today persists and those capable of providing assistance continually fail to uphold their obligations. We hope that the United Nations, through its development system, will work in a coordinated and effective manner to assist developing countries. We also affirm the need for all international stakeholders to establish a constructive global partnership to promote economic growth, achieve social welfare and protect the planet in the interest of present and future generations.

We ask that this statement be included in the record of this meeting.

Ms. Beekma Reis (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

At the outset, we extend our sincere congratulations to you, Mr. President, and to the co-facilitators of this process.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and wishes to add a few points in its national capacity.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 70/299, on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) at the global level. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to establish a more just and equal world free from poverty by 2030. Our Heads of State committed to implementing these goals and abiding by the principles set forth in the 2030 Agenda. This resolution highlights the shared vision of Member States and establishes the necessary road map to evaluate progress towards the implementation of the global agenda, as well as to ensure that the overall objectives are truly achieved.

However, we believe that leaving no one behind is the only way to achieve genuine universality in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In order to achieve these goals, we must eliminate the obstacles to the full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial domination and foreign occupation, which affects their economic, social and environmental development. We therefore regret that this document does not take into account the principle of the right to development, which is a right of every human being without exception.

Mr. Bessedik (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): My delegation fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Permanent Representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Jordan on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

My delegation welcomes the adoption of resolution 70/299, on the follow-up and review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). However, we continue to regret and

deplore the fact that there are still voices expressing reservations or opposing a fundamental principle, namely, that of the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination. This is in contravention of the goal that has been highlighted since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, namely, to ensure that no one be left behind. In that regard, my delegation recalls the fact that foreign occupation and colonial domination constitute the worst form of human rights violation and the very denial of those rights.

My delegation will continue to recall the fact that the right to self-determination is clearly enshrined in international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations and the international covenants on human rights. In that context, we stress the fact that the people of the 17 non-self-governing territories legitimately expect to fully exercise their right to self-detrmination, that the responsibility to complete the decolonization process is incumbent upon the United Nations and that, once again, it is deplorable that, in the twenty-first century, we hear voices rising up against this fundamental right, in flagrant breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the various relevant resolutions.

Such opposition also runs counter to resolution 70/1, solemnly adopted in September 2015, enshrining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose universal and global nature our Heads of State and Government committed to upholding by adopting it by consensus. On the other hand, my delegation particularly emphasizes the fact that the manner in which this resolution was adopted — thanks to the flexibilty shown by the Group of 77 and China — shall by no means constitute grounds to be invoked in the context of future activities, in particular intergovernmental activities within the United Nations system.

Ms. Maricle (United States of America): I would like to thank the co-facilitators and all those who worked painstakingly for months to achieve this outcome, and in doing so, to offer further clarity on a critical element of the 2030 Agenda. We also want to thank the many countries that came to the table in good faith over the past months to forge forward towards this outcome. However, we would be remiss not to note our disappointment in how the final stages of this process unfolded after we had come to an agreement.

Together, we have built a common understanding and respect for the methods and norms of our work together in this organ. Resolution 70/299 did not follow that, resulting in a disturbing erosion of trust. Coming out of a successful and energizing first High-level Political Forum, I hope that, as we move forward, this will not repeat itself, and that instead we can return to an important spirit of collegiality. Too much is on the line in the implementation of our agenda for that not to happen.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 15 and 116.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.